



The Fitzgerald Auditorium. Buffet and Cafe at 30-32 Kentucky Ave., Atlantic City, New Jersey.

**THE CITY BY THE SEA.**

**A Fen Picture of Atlantic City as Seen by a Scribe of the Races Leading Journal.**

Atlantic City, N. J., Special—I was in Atlantic City two days this week, and for the size and character of the city it beats anything I ever saw. While the season proper is not yet open, yet for life and activity it contains more, than any city in the United States of its size. I find many things here to amuse and interest me. It is a "city of hotels;" it's a city whose aim in life seems to be to entertain people who visit and to get all they can out of those



MR GEORGE H. HARRIS.

who are lucky enough to come here. There are hotels, cottages, boarding houses, restaurants and bar rooms to burn, so to speak. The whole vocabulary of names seems to be exhausted. The names run from "Liberty Bell" to "Kokomo" and to "Yaller Cat." The manager of the Pullman Palace Car Company might do well to visit the city to enrich himself on names to apply to the new palace cars that are being turned out from day to day at Pullman, Ill. There are plenty of colored people here and there is plenty of prejudice here. There is but one colored cottage on Atlantic avenue, the main thoroughfare and there is none on the great five mile board walk. One was there last year, the Grand Pacific, but it had to succumb. Colored saloon keepers cannot get license to do business on Atlantic avenue, but unlike most cities the colored population lives in the northern part of the city. This, however, may be due to the fact that the high water, when it is high, backs up in this part of the city and makes it damp and uncomfortable for the inhabitants. More than ten thousand colored people are employed in this city during the busy season which lasts about four months, June, July, August and September. They make good wages during the busy season and

landlords do not make much from collecting rent but negotiate for rents to tide over the next season.

There are between 4,000 and 5,000 colored people who live in this little town year in and year out and many of them are in business, owning good property and making money. It was my pleasure in connection with W. R. Brooks, the representative of The Colored American in Atlantic City and the talented son of Rev. Walter H. Brooks, pastor of the 19th Street Baptist church in Washington, D. C., to visit many of the leading places of business owned and operated by colored men.

One of the largest and most successful places is the Auditorium Cafe, and buffet conducted by Mr. B. G. Fitzgerald at 30 and 32 North Kentucky avenue. This property is a four-story building owned entirely by Mr. Fitzgerald, containing on the one side a first-class cafe with a complete outfit for the culinary department, ice boxes, etc., a soda fountain with polite lady clerks, with an auditorium up stairs capable of seating one thousand, with arrangements for stage, for orchestra and most excellent acoustic properties. It is used largely for public gatherings, but mainly for dinners, receptions, balls and parties. On the ground floor of the other side of the building is a bar extending back to the pool room, consisting of eight elegantly upholstered pool tables and equipped in the most up-to-date style. Mr. Fitzgerald does a business of over \$20,000 a year and the pleasure which is herewith given gives but a faint idea of the magnitude of his business and of the elegance of its equipment.

Down at 1189 Atlantic avenue is the Harris Hotel, owned and operated by Mr. George H. Harris. While the place is known as a hotel it is really a hall large enough to entertain conventions, concerts and theatrical entertainments and is divided up into many departments. Mr. Harris is one of the most successful Afro-Americans in the city and is said to do the biggest business of any colored man in Atlantic City. In my visit to his place I found an elegant dining and lunch room, private dining rooms and while the season was not on, the place seemed to be doing a thriving business. Mr. Harris is so philanthropic that even in his dull season he gives a bounteous free lunch once a day to his patrons who are not required to buy the "regular glass" of beer. The lunch is wholesome and edible. Mr. Harris is also a political leader of great force and is the head of the McKinley Club which will visit Philadelphia in June. He is a young man and a native of the South.

The Henderson Hotel, operated by Mr. Thomas O. Murray, formerly of Washington, is one of the largest and most complete hotels in Atlantic City opened to colored people. It contains thirty-two rooms. Its apartments are of the very best and it is owned and operated by that veteran boni face Mr. Thomas O. Murray. I am stopping at this hotel while here and I am afraid that if I should remain too long I would

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have the gout. The Henderson is at 120 North Mississippi avenue, but two squares from the depot and in a quiet and very prominent part of the city. You can hear the roar and see the waves of the ocean from this popular house.

The Debity Cottage, located at 31 North Ohio avenue, and conducted by Mrs. J. F. Debity for many years, is another first class cottage and one which should receive a large share of the patronage from the Washington public. It has large airy rooms, all modern improvements and is spick-span clean.

The Manhattan Inn is one of the centers of attraction in the city and is owned and run by a most popular and enterprising young man, Mr. Thomas Cole. Mr. Cole is a Buckeye by birth but left his home in Hamilton county Ohio, when a mere youth. He followed the race horses, made a reputation as a pugilist and all round sport and a few years ago settled in Atlantic City and opened the Manhattan Inn. All young men of Washington who chance to visit Atlantic City but who do not call at the Manhattan Inn will miss a good chance. I am under personal obligations to Mr. Cole for the many courtesies shown me while here. The portrait printed in another part of this paper hardly does Mr. Cole justice. He

is young, good looking and hospitable to a degree that is commendable.

Many Washingtonians will remember Mr. J. O. Smallwood who conducts the Hub Hotel at 15 North Illinois avenue this city. This popular house reminds me very much of the Sparta Cafe in Washington conducted by Messrs. Moore and Prielesu. It is first class in all its departments and Mr. Smallwood gives personal attention to the management of the house. He has private dining rooms and a public dining room and his public service is first class in every particular.

The Colored American will be on sale at all of the hotels, cottages and news stands in Atlantic City and Washingtonians will have no trouble in getting a copy of it each week when they visit the city. Mr. Warren R. Brooks, 128 Bay street is the Atlantic City representative and will see to it that every item of news is printed and that all who want a copy of the paper may procure one. My short visit to Atlantic City makes it impossible for me to mention the many nice things that I saw if I had the time and the space.

Miss Annie B. Johnson, a talented young school marm of Columbus, Ohio and who has devoted special attention to kindergarten work, is in the city. She is a guest of Hon. John P. Green and will be assigned to kindergarten work at an early date in the District through the kindly influences of Mrs. Daniel Murray.