

MISS HOWARD A WINNER.

She Finishes Third in the Trip to Paris Contest—One of Five Most Popular School Teachers of Greater New York to Visit the Paris Exposition.

On Monday the Evening Telegram announced the close of the contest, which had been waged through its columns for over a year, to determine by vote the five most popular school teachers of Greater New York, who were to go to the Paris Exposition as the guests of that bright and enterprising journal. Among the winners is Miss J. Imogen Howard, who easily maintained her position as third in the race. The story of her triumph is easily told in the Telegram as follows:

One of the most interesting of the many remarkable features of the contest was the record made by Miss J. Imogen Howard, the chief representative of the colored race. Her people rallied most loyally to her support and worked with energy so unflagging that she was soon within striking distance of the top. From that day she was always among the leaders.

As the contest neared the end, she grew stronger, and her adherents became jubilant. Thousands upon thousands of ballots were added to her already large number. Gradually she rose to fifth place, then this mount was scaled and fourth place was captured, and then with apparent ease Miss Howard glided into third place. Thirty-eight thousand five hundred and fifty new ballots were added to the credit of Miss Howard's number and this brought her very near to Miss Wiley. And when the total count came, and the feverish heat of the last few days was over—all the ballots in end counted—this was the result:

Miss Louise Jacobs	410,190
Miss Jennie B. Wiley.....	378,988
Miss J. Imogen Howard.....	350,003
Mrs. A. E. Matthews.....	272,095
Miss Jennie M. Gibbons.....	205,830

Miss Howard is at present a teacher in Public School No. 60, in West 41st street. In the long and exciting period of accumulating ballots the unwearied friends of this woman kept steadily and unflinchingly at their work. Miss Howard was the first and only colored woman in the Empire State appointed to a managership in the World's Columbian Exposition. Miss Howard was born in Boston, and lived there until she was seventeen years old. She first attended the Boston grammar and high schools, from which she was graduated with high honors. She then became a student in the Girls' High and Normal School, where she was graduated in 1868. She was the first colored graduate of that institution. In the same year she came to New York and became a teacher in Grammar School No. 81, in West 17th street.

Upon the resignation of Mrs. Garnet she became principal of the night school held in that building and held that position for eight years.

In spite of her arduous duties as principal and instructor, Miss Howard found time to attend the Saturday session for teachers in the Normal College, and received degree of M. A. Then she took a three years' course at the University of the City of New School of Pedagogy, and received the degree of doctor of pedagogy.

Miss Howard, speaking of the results of her labors, said that many of her boys were holding good positions in public offices in this city. Many of them, when they saw by the Evening Telegram that their favorite teacher's name was in the contest, set to work with a will to aid her together with other

friends. Prominent among her loyal supporters was Dr. P. W. Ray, who is on the board of trustees of Brooklyn's Board of Pharmacy. It may be said here that the idea of placing Miss Howard's name in the list of contestants originated in St. Phillip's Protestant Episcopal Church. Then Miss Kate Smith, of Brooklyn, lent a hand. Miss Lucy E. Mo'en of Washington, where she is principal of the Normal school, started a circle of workers, who achieved excellent results. There were numerous friends in New England who helped in collecting ballots. Miss E. B. Magman, of St. Mark's Methodist church, clipped many coupons. Miss Mary Lewis, of Public School No. 80, with other teachers of this school, aided in keeping Miss Howard's name to the front. Other enthusiasts were: Rufus Hurburt, George Garner and Messrs. Chessman, Van Alen, Frazier, Clayton and Pierson, as well as Mrs. Graves, Mrs. Schroeder, Mrs. Dalton and Mrs. Davis. Several friends in the Church of St. Benedict gave their services in the cause, while coupons were sent from Boston, Washington and Baltimore.

When Miss Howard was asked by one of our most influential citizens to promptly consider a proposition made to enter the contest, it seemed impossible to attempt it, and one or two others were asked for the sake of our representation as a part of the great body of teachers, to enter their names. One had the honor of being named as a successful contestant in 1893, when the New York Press sent teachers to the Columbian Exposition, and another did not care to undertake the work, so our candidate in February 1899 was entered, a few votes being sent to the Telegram office on the first night that coupons appeared in the paper.

Friends and strangers, North, South East and West have supplemented the work of enthusiastic individuals and clubs in this city, so that from the small beginning, the close finds over 350,000 votes recorded for "No 3."

Miss Howard wishes it were possible to write to every loyal man, woman and child personally, and express her gratitude for the one step forward in our history that we have taken, by not working for an individual, but for the grand principle of proving we can be united in furthering a cause that appeals to our race pride.

In this public way she sends her sincere thanks to each and every helper, individuals and associations in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Illinois, Tennessee and the District of Columbia. The support was unflinching and unselfish, the interest never appearing to flag during the sixteen months of this most wonderful inpouring of ballots for the teachers.

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