

A PROMINENT KENTUCKIAN.

Editor Underwood a Professor and a Doctor of Divinity—A Power in the School Room and a Moulder of Public Sentiment—Biographical Reminiscences.

Edward Ellsworth Underwood, the youngest son of a distinguished A. M. E. clergyman, the Rev. J. P. Underwood, was born of highly respected parents in Mount Pleasant, Ohio, June 7, 1864.

Early in childhood he was sent to the colored public schools of his native town from which he graduated at the age of 14. Although Ohio had no mixed schools at that time, this young man with his desire for a higher education succeeded in forcing an entrance to the white high school and graduated from the same at the age of 17, with the third honors of his class.

He then accepted the principalship of the school in the city of Emmerson which he held for seven and a half years. Meanwhile he was thus engaged in the profession of teaching—the "de-



EDITOR E. E. UNDERWOOD.

lightful task, to rear the tender thought, to teach the young idea how to shoot, to pour the fresh instruction o'er the mind, to breathe the generous purpose in the glowing breast"—he felt the impression of a call to the gospel ministry. At the age of 19 he was therefore licensed by the A. M. E. Church to preach the gospel to the poor, heal the broken-hearted, preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, set at liberty them that are bruised, preach the acceptable year of the Lord, through the anointing of the Holy Spirit. He was consequently popularly known and sought as the "boy preacher." Had he continued actively engaged in the ministry he doubtless would have become one of the most distinguished Bishops of his church.

An earnest Sunday-school worker, beginning at the age of 16, for seven years he served the largest Sunday-school of his native town as its superintendent, and for three years he served likewise the St. John's Sunday-school of the city of Cleveland. He was also honored five years as the secretary of the Ohio Sunday-school Institute. All of this service is a tribute to the Christian worth of his early manhood.

Nor was his sphere of usefulness rounded here for he was early destined to prominent citizenship in more than one and his native State and home, and to stand conspicuous in his race for his political work and worth. Thus in 1887 he was elected by a constituency of 90 per cent white, of Mt. Pleasant, a member of the county Republican Committee. One year later he was elected over three white competitors to represent his ward as a member of the Mt. Pleasant council. Not only was he the only colored man that enjoyed that distinction but he was the youngest member of that body. Of his political service in Kentucky we shall speak later in this sketch and shall say a word concerning Mr. Underwood as a man of letters.

That he is a writer of no mean ability every candid reader of his literature cannot and will not deny. He has written much prose and several poems and has begun the compilation of a Text Book for the colored schools of Kentucky for supplementary reading.

Some of his best productions in prose

were written when he served on the staff of the Cleveland Gazette and also when he contributed to the editorials of The Pioneer Press of Martinsburg, W. Va., the Odd Fellows Signal. As a poet his most popular works are: "To My Sister," "The Future," "Grant," and "The Landing of the Afric Fathers." The title of the book which he is compiling is "Flashes from Negro Brain."

If not divine discontent, something akin to it, urged Mr Underwood onward to other fields of usefulness. In March, 1891, this young man graduated as a physician and surgeon from the Western Reserve Medical College, Cleveland, Ohio, after which he located immediately at Frankfort, Kentucky. Upon his arrival in this capital city the citizens gave him a hearty public reception at the Corinthian Baptist church. At the same time and place he wrote the first "prescription" of his, since continuously large and lucrative practice. As a result of which he has built the handsome residence in which he lives and his office next door, and has made other prudent financial investments. Highly respected here by the medical fraternity as well as the citizens, he has served as assistant city physician of Frankfort for one year, and has recently been elected secretary of the board of Pension Examining Surgeons located here.

In December, 1891, he was elected Secretary of the Anti-Separate Coach Executive Committee of the State of Kentucky and has held this position ever since. He is the founder and was the first president of the State League of Colored Republican clubs. In this office he served three years. He is a member of the Republican City and County Committee of Frankfort and Franklin county. Has been a delegate to the Republican State convention six or seven years. He was one of the Kentucky commissioners of the Cotton States and International Exposition at Atlanta, and was also appointed by Governor Bradley as a commissioner at the Tennessee Centennial.

He was trustee of the State Normal schools for colored for one term, and was the first colored man to enjoy this distinction. This was during the administration of Governor Bradley. Dr. Underwood is at present editor of the Blue Grass Bugle, Frankfort, Kentucky, member of the Board of Censors of the National Medical College, trustee of the Central Law School, both of which institutions are located in the city of Louisville; he is consulting surgeon to the Cosmopolitan Sanitarium and Infirmary, member of the State Colored Medical Association and of the National Medical Association of Colored Physicians and Surgeons. Also he is a prominent member of the following secret societies: United Brothers of Friendship, Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, and Free Masons.

On July 3, 1895, he was united in the holy bonds of matrimony to a teacher in the Frankfort public schools, Miss Sarah J. Walker, a woman of grace and culture, who has proven an excellent better half for the doctor, and who enjoys with him the respect of the citizens of Frankfort. As a result of this union Dr. Underwood is the father of two bright little boys, Ellsworth and Robert. His is a pleasant home.

Indeed the subject of this sketch is one versatile in genius, who has touched life to a successful degree at more than one point, and whose opinions generally on all these points have been truly educational for the masses of our race, advantageous, physically, intellectually, morally and spiritually—a man, generous, jovial, and "loyal to the great common people"—a doctor of medicine, learned in his science and skilled in his art—a politician convincing on the stump and conspicuously partisan in the calm atmosphere of the campaign, yet agreeably conservative in the columns of his race journal during the recent storm and "war of elements" in the civil government of Kentucky—an orator, florid in style, noble in sentiment, pleasing in delivery, and popular with the masses and the classes; a poet of whose rich imagination, choice diction, salient thought and manly soul, a reading of his "Landing of the Afric Fathers" and other poems can tell you better than words—in short he is an honor to his race and a blessing to humanity. And if "to live in hearts one leaves behind is not to die," then Edward Ellsworth Underwood must live forever.

THE GRAND FOUNTAIN.

United Order of True Reformers.

ORGANIZED January 1, 1881.

Offices 604, 606 and 608 N. 2nd St., - - Richmond, Va.

An order devoted to the interests of its members, both in their home and business relations. We offer you an opportunity for gilt edged business investment, in enterprises owned and controlled by the Order and managed by colored men, who are members of the Order.

If you are sound in health and mind, of good moral character, not younger than three (3) years nor older than sixty (60) you are eligible to membership. There are two Fountains, the Subordinate and the Rosebud.

SUBORDINATE FOUNTAINS.

To join the Subordinate Fountain you must be between 14 and 16 years of age. You pay \$4.50 to \$6.00 (according to age) as joining fee. If you live in the country you pay 35 cents per month as dues; if in the city, 50 cents per month. You pay as taxes 80 cents per month.

As Sick Benefits you receive from \$4.00 to \$9.00 per month, in weekly payments.

As Death Benefit, your family receives \$75.00 if you die within a year. After one year the Death Benefit is \$125.00.

ROSEBUD FOUNTAINS.

To join the Rosebud Fountain you must be between 3 and 14 year of age. You pay \$1.00, either cash or by installments. The monthly dues are either 15 or 25 cents as Fountains may decide. The annual tax is 10 cents. You receive as Sick Benefit from \$1.50 to \$4.00 per month, in weekly payments.

As Death Benefit, your family will be paid \$24.50 if you die within a year. After one year the Death Benefit is \$37.

In the INSURANCE DEPARTMENT, there are Three (3) Classes:—Class B, Class E, and Class M. All dues are payable annually or quarterly.

In Class B, the age limit is 14 to 60 years. Fee, \$1.50 to \$4.25. Annual dues, \$4.75 to \$7.60. The Certificate is valued first year at from \$100 to \$33. After one year, its value is \$100 to \$35.

In Class E, the age limit is 14 to 55 years. Fee, \$5 to \$8.50. Annual dues, \$9.50 to 11.40. The Certificate is valued first year at from \$250 to \$175. After one year its value is \$500 to \$300.

In Class M, the age limit is 14 to 50 years. Fee \$11 to \$13.50. Annual dues, \$21 to \$35. The certificate is valued from date of issue at from \$1,000 to \$700.

You are entitled to a Life Membership in either of the Fountains or in Class B and E upon purchase of the required amount of Bank stock, which pays a dividend annually of 20 per cent.

The Grand Fountain United Order of True Reformers has paid up to July 29, 1900, a total of 3752 Death Benefits, with a grand total of \$521,264.75, over a HALF MILLION DOLLARS.

THE BANK.—In our Savings Bank the Order has a sound and flourishing institution that is a credit not only to the Order but the race as well. It began business April 3, 1889. The capital stock is \$100,000. The business is the same as that of any other regularly constituted bank, and is surrounded by the same safeguards. The stock sells for \$5.00 a share to members, and pays 20 per cent. dividends. Both time and demand deposits are received and 4 per cent. interest is paid on time deposits. The following is a copy of the Cashier's report to Auditor of Public Accounts of Virginia at close of business Sept., 5, 1900 and shows its flourishing condition:—

RESOURCES.	LIABILITIES.
Loans and discounts	Capital stock paid in
Other stock, bonds and mortgages	Surplus fund
Due from National Banks ...	Undivided profits
Banking House	Demand certificate of de-
Other real estates	posit
Furniture and Fixtures	Time certificates of deposit
Current expenses and taxes paid	Total
Specie, nickels and cents ...	
Paper currency	
Total	

The Reformer's Grocery and Feed Store is located at 501 North Sixth St., Richmond, Va., and members of the Order and the public generally are saved 20 per cent. on the cost of food products.

THE REFORMER is the newspaper published by the order from its own office in Richmond, Va. It stands for the voice of the people, representing co-operation and combination of the race and is the Beacon Light, the Headlight, the General Messenger and the General Agent of the Brotherhood. It is \$1.00 per year. A well equipped job office bids for the work of the people, which is turned out in first class style and at low prices.

Six miles from Richmond, in Henrico County, Va., the Order has purchased 634 acres of land, and established thereon an "Old Folk's Home". With unexampled liberality and broad-minded generosity, the Order does not limit entrance to this home to its members alone, nor even to members families, but the doors are opened to the aged and decrepid of the whole race, regardless of their residence or connections. The Order makes itself the trustee for this glorious charity, and calls upon the whole people, black and white, North, East, South and West to assist by their contribution the carrying out of this praiseworthy idea. April 3rd of each year is set apart as a Grand Rally Day for the Home. Contributions can be forwarded to the cashier of the Reformer's Savings Bank, who will send receipt for same and account for it to The Grand Fountain.

Members of the Order and the public, when visiting Richmond, Va., are invited to stop at The Hotel Reformer, 900 North Sixth St. It is in a pleasant and desirable location. Service is of the best and rates are reasonable.

The Real Estate Department manages and controls all property interests of the Order. The Order now owns 13 buildings, 4 farms, 4 dwellings, 1 hotel with a fee simple value of \$122,500. In addition to these the Order leases 13 buildings.

For any further information, address W. L. TAYLOR, G. W. Master, W. P. BURELL, G. W. Secretary.