

Some Negroes in Business.

Below we give a few examples of enterprising Negro business men. We make no pretense at giving a sketch of these men's lives, but to chronicle their success in the commercial lines. The recent Business League proved so interesting that some practical sample of Negro thrift and economy, is not a misplace at this time. These men and women are those of the race, who are doing and not talking. They are indeed representative and are of the kind who must help us solve this question—the greatest confronting the American people.

There are four drug shops owned by Negroes in Montgomery, Ala.

No colored person, who has attempted to run a hostelry in the District of Columbia has ever failed.

Mr. F. G. Stedman is a manufacturer of bells and pails in Connecticut, and has an extensive business.

D. J. Cunningham and Alexander Oliver are two of the largest grocery dealers in Florida, and are powers in their home town, Pensacola.

One million dollars was represented at the Boston meeting of the Negro Business League. Upwards of three hundred delegates were present.

The largest grocery store in the town of Tuskegee, Ala., is conducted by A. J. Wilborn, a colored man who is a graduate of the Tuskegee Institute.

C. T. Walker, is president of a mining company in Alabama, which has developed and sold coal. The office is at Birmingham, Ala. The company is a stock company.

Messrs. M. Gary and Johnson of Pensacola, Fla., confectioners, and cigar dealers are young men not of age, who conduct a profitable and paying business, in that city.

The True Reformers' organization is the strong financial project of the colored race in the Union. It was formed by Rev. W. W. Browne. Dr. G. W. Taylor is the present President.

Mr. J. R. Hamm conducts one of the large bookstores in Boston, and has a paying trade. He does the great bulk of theatrical business. The theatres are in his section of the city.

Lloyd G. Wheeler owns one of the largest tailoring establishments in Chicago. Mr. Wheeler was once a practicing attorney in that city but now attends to the workings of his great establishment.

The Insurance Company of North and South Carolina of which E. J. Young is Secretary and Manager, is one of the substantial business projects of the race. The head office is at Charlotte, N. C.

Mr. Geo. C. Jones, is the proprietor of the largest undertaking establishment in Little Rock, Ark. It is said that no undertaker in that city can conduct an important funeral, unless the carriages and hearses of Mr. Jones are used.

B. W. Smith of Macon, Miss., is a merchant of prominence in the councils. He does a \$50,000 business per year. Mr. Smith furnishes large plantations by the year. A few years ago Mr. Smith was a comparatively poor man.

There are three colored banks in America, which do an up-to-date bank-

ing business, and whose notes are acceptable anywhere. The Capital Savings Bank in Washington, D. C.; the True Reformers' Bank in Richmond, Va., and the Penny Savings Bank in Birmingham, Ala.

Probably the largest catering business in this country, run by a colored man is the mammoth business of J. H. James in Pensacola, Fla. Mr. James does a business to the amount of \$55,000 per year. He employs nine men in the day and nine at night. His doors are never closed.

Mr. W. H. Houser of Charlotte, N. C., is the largest brickmaker in that county. Competitors have fallen in his section because they aimed at him instead of the bricks. Mr. Houser carried on the contracting business in connection with the brick work, at one time, but concluded to attend solely to the making of them.

R. B. Fitzgerald of Durham, N. C., makes the finest and best brick in the State. He works more hands and makes more brick than any other dealer in North Carolina. Besides this business, Mr. Fitzgerald owns a large drug store, and is the proprietor of a large cigar manufacturing establishment. He employs in all of his works about thirty men and women.

Mr. J. H. Lewis of Boston, Mass., is the leading tailor of that city. The Harvard set, the ruling class of Boston, forms the bulk of his patronage. Mr. Lewis has \$40,000 invested in his business, and does \$125,000 worth of work per year. He employs ten tailors and his establishment is one of the leaders in point of taste, situation, and comfort, in the Hub.

J. W. Adams, of Montgomery, Ala., owns the largest dry goods establishments among the colored people in the United States. Mr. Adams employs eight clerks in his Montgomery store and four in the Decatur store. In his millinery department, Misses Pierce and Robinson, graduates of Tuskegee have charge. At the annual openings of this department as many whites as colored attend.

19th Street Baptist Church.

The annual report of the board of trustees of the 19th St. Baptist church is one encouraging to the members of that institution. The receipts 1899, 1900 were \$4,173.75, and the expenditure amounted to \$2,808.88, leaving a balance of \$1,374.87. In the preceding year '98 and '99, the receipts were \$3,704.34; the expenditure for that year \$2,924.21, leaving a balance of \$780.13. By comparison it will be seen that during the current year there was received \$469.41 more and the expenditures were \$115.33 less than the preceding year. The past year for the church has been a prosperous one, and the report speaks well for the members, and the pastor, Rev. Walter H. Brooks.

LOTS FOR SALE.

WE have at Colemanville, Mineral Springs, Va., TWENTY-FIVE BUILDING LOTS, which must be sold at once. This is a great opportunity for any one who wishes to purchase property at the only mineral springs owned by colored people in the country. This is a fine place, and will be a great money making summer resort. Title guaranteed lots for cash or on installment. If you want one, write to DR. E. PARKER READ, President of the NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION, 1037 South street, Philadelphia, Penna.

THE AFRO-AMERICAN IN OHIO POLITICS.

With the election of November 6, and the campaign that closed on that date there passes from the political arena a man who has done perhaps more than any one colored man in Ohio to secure recognition for his people. George A. Myers the stalwart republican of Ohio; the man who had no personal favors to ask of the party in the shape of office, has for the past few years been recognized as the leading political factor in Ohio when it came to Afro-Americans. He has fought more successful battles, and secured more recognition for the race than any dozen men of color in Ohio True and loyal as a friend he gathered around him a coterie of able and progressive colored men who were with him to the end in every battle. Now fairly and well upon the crest of the wave of success, having achieved victory in every contest he entered, he voluntarily retires from politics, state and national, and like Cincinnatus, returns to the plow. In all the years that he was in politics Mr. Myers never asked for office for himself, but at every opportunity made a fight for recognition for his race. While it is true that the time to retire from politics, in order to be remembered with gratitude, is when one is in success, yet there are thousands of colored men not only in Ohio but throughout the country who will regret to learn that Mr. Myers has decided to quit the exciting and fascinating game of politics, because of the great good they feel he could yet accomplish for his people. He says, however, that he willingly and gratefully yields the palm to whoever wishes to take up the work, and in retiring he does so with a full knowledge that whatever success has attended him has been through the fidelity and loyalty of friends who were always with him in every contest. He would have retired last year, but yielded to the pressure of friends and his own desire to assist in the re-election of President McKinley. With a fine business to yield up the beautiful coin of the realm, a handsome home luxuriantly furnished, and a most interesting family, Mr. Myers will turn with pleasure from the excitement, the animosities, the fire and heat of politics to the pleasures that a happy home and a compensating business affords.

As to who will take his place; become the acknowledged leader, there is considerable speculation, and whether his successor will be able to hold together the organization that Mr. Myers built up, the friends that he made, depends largely on the man and the circumstances leading to his selection. Myers, Parham, Green, Brown, Clifford, Tyler, Cottrill, Copeland, Doll, Reynolds Hill, Jackson et al have been a combination hard to beat. They have stood together in every contest, their motto being, "Together we stand in victory or defeat," but defeat they never experienced.

Ohio has so many bright and able men that it will doubtless be a hard matter for them to decide on any one to take the leadership as Myers held it and the retirement of Myers, right in the midst of success, and voluntarily, will attract much attention to Ohio until his successor is chosen.

TO THE DEAF.

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