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MUSIC IN THE SCHOOLS.

An Oberlin Graduate at the Helm—Miss Harriete A. Gibbs in Charge of the Music of the District Colored Schools—A Record Full of Interest and Encouragement.

Miss Harriet A. Gibbs, who was recently appointed Director of Music for the colored schools of Washington, D. C., is the first colored graduate of one of the best conservatories in the country, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Ohio. She was born in Victoria, Vancouver's Island, and is the daughter of Hon. M. W. Gibbs, U. S. Consul to Tamatave, Madagascar.

She was educated in the public schools and college of Oberlin. She studied the rudiments of music as a child but stopped at thirteen on entering the high school as her mother thought it too great a tax on her mind and time.

After graduating from the high school, she entered Oberlin Conservatory of Music with a view to completing the course. She supplemented her music with select studies in the college now and then. After six years more of study she finished the conservatory course graduating from piano harmony, vocal music and pipe organ. She was known by her teachers as a faithful, hard working student, who achieved brilliant results.

During the first year after her graduation, she was called to the directorship of the conservatory department of Eckstein Norton University, Kentucky, a new institution started on a broad scale with all departments of study. The president wrote to Miss Gibbs telling her that, as far as he could discover, she was the only colored graduate in the country, and offered her the place. She declined at first, intending to go about for further study, but, on being advised that a little practical experience in teaching would be advantageous to her, she accepted the position for a time. She found it almost impossible to leave the work and so remained director of the conservatory department there until a year ago when private duties called her here. During this time she has had a leave of absence most of which was spent in Boston studying music and musical methods.

While in Kentucky, she raised money to erect a building for the conservatory department by giving recitals and soliciting funds in the East. In her school she was universally loved and admired by teachers and pupils. The school authorities speak in the highest terms of her executive ability, tactfulness and devotion to duty. Of her work



MISS HARRIET A. GIBBS,
Assistant Superintendent of Music, Washington Schools.

there Mr. Riching's book has a most flattering account.

After the death of the lamented Mrs. Davis, she applied for the position of Director of Music and won in a competitive examination. Her success may seem to some the result of luck or influence or some such thing, but to the thinking person it is nothing but the result of embracing one's opportunities, long years of faithful study and strict adherence to duty.

The musical booked for December 19th at Park Temple promises to be the treat of the season.

The talent of Park Temple choir will be assisted on the evening of the 19th inst. by Mr. Clarence C. White, Miss Lola Johnson, Miss Addie Wormley, Dr. C. S. Wormley and others.

The engagement is announced of Miss Norma Louise Ridley to Mr. Samuel Carroll Hudnell, of New York, the wedding to occur in February.

Quite a number of Afro-American musical people attended the piano recital by Madam Carreno at the Congregational church on Monday night. Among them were Misses L. Haywood Hattie Gibbs, Mamie White, Beatrice Warrick, Mr. Clarence C. White and others.

The Church Aid Society of the Nineteenth Street Baptist church gave an entertainment Thursday November 29 at their church for the benefit of the needy ones, which was a success in every particular. Everybody fared sumptuously. The tables were handsomely decorated and loaded with all the luxuries of the season.

A WINDY CITY MUSICAL.

A Deserving Man Pardoned—Prof. Smith—The Band Master Makes a Good Showing—News Notes.

[The Chicago Office of The Colored American is located at 59 Dearborn St., suite 412.]

Chicago, Ill., Special.—A donation from Dr. Miner C. Baldwin in the form of an organ recital was tendered the Institutional church on last Monday evening. At an early hour the auditorium of the church was well filled with a congenial crowd of Chicago's music-loving public. One is accustomed to seeing at least one assistant at a recital, and it must be confessed that when the program was looked over and no assistant named, there was a little dubiousness felt as to whether it would prove as pleasant as it was anticipated; but before he had finished his first number all felt that a rare musical treat would have been missed if they had remained away. One of Dr. Baldwin's numbers—a Symphonic Poem—deserves special mention. It is a composition of his own and has four movements—Pastoral, storm, Thanksgiving Hymn and Invocation. The lights in the church were put out, leaving only two burning dimly on the organ. And during the storm movement one saw vivid flashes of lightning, heard the thunder roll and it all seemed so realistic that all we needed were the umbrellas to complete the illusion. The Rev. Ransom is to be congratulated upon being so fortunate as to have secured Mr. Baldwin.

Through the efforts of R. R. Church, of Memphis, H. C. Mitchell, F. L. Barnett, W. W. Johnson and Maj. John C. Buckner, and a number of influential citizens of Chicago, a petition was sent to the Governor of Tennessee, signed by a dozen other Governors, business and professional men and at last a pardon was granted Edward Curtis Cole. Cole was convicted of burglary in Memphis and sentenced to 30 imprisonment. After serving about a year he escaped and under the name of Curtis married about two years later. All went well until he met James Washington who was a convict at the time Cole received his long term.

Washington who was then a "tin-star" detective, knowing that a reward of \$25 was offered for an escaped convict decided to inform on Curtis. Although a guest at the Curtis home where he slept and ate as one of the family, he proved traitor and Cole was taken back to Memphis to serve out his unfinished time. Cole who had been

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