

PATRIOTISM AND OBEDIENCE.

Bishop Walters Commended for his Patriotic Utterances—Sergt. Gibson Advises Young Afro Americans to Enter the Army.

Editor Colored American: Bishop A. Walters, in his address on Afro American Day, touched the keynote when he said that the colored youth must be taught patriotism, obedience to the laws, integrity and lofty moral consciousness. Now, there is no vocation in which the colored youth of today can acquire all of these traits and have them drilled into his being so thoroughly and readily, and in such manner that they will show in his daily deportment through all of his future life, as in the army. Here he learns discipline, unity of effort, responsibility, obedience to law, integrity and fidelity to duty, self-reliance, and a moral and physical courage that know no defeat. I believe that I am safe in saying, that the ethics of manly manhood is bound up in a military training. The Afro-American of today wants this courage that displays itself in silent effort, in united endeavor, that dares endure all and suffer all for success and manhood.

Every step of progress in the history of our race, has been made in the face of opposition and difficulty, and been achieved and secured by men of intrepidity and valor. But as the signs of times show that the enemy is using every means at hand both fair and foul; the educated colored man who wishes a commission in the army must plan his efforts in such manner as will enable him to take advantage of every shadow of a chance that presents itself—and if the chances do not present themselves fast enough, make them! If the educated colored men should have gone into the regular Army in the same numbers and with the persistency as they have crowded into the Pullman service and hotels (for the mere sake of filling mental positions) we would have had our quota of commissioned officers ere this. If the officers of the 48th and 49th Infantry make an application to the War Department to enter the regular Army under the new law, our leading men ought to make it their business to see that the application is accepted by the President.

I have reason to believe that this request will be made. Our men of influence should be on the alert for this application and know the very minute it reaches Washington. This is a duty they owe to themselves, to the colored officers in the Philippines who have left home, relatives and friends for the sake of country and race. Gentlemen of influence, I said it was your duty, and I meant what I said. Because man does not live for himself alone. He lives for the good of others as well as himself. Consequently, the dauntless daring of the colored soldier has benefited the entire race, and we simply ask you to appreciate and do your duty to us in return. The sphere of duty is infinite, and it exists in every station of life. Obedience to duty at all cost and risks, is what we felt—going up San Juan Hill, and I think Bishop Walters points it out, as being the very essence of the highest civilized life.

In all wars of this country in which the colored soldier has participated, he has always and in every instance, emulated the pagan sentinel at Pompeii, found dead at his post, during the burial of the city by the ashes of Vesuvius some eighteen hundred years ago. While others fled, he stood to his post;

it was his duty. He had been sent to guard the place and he never flinched; such is the Afro-American soldier. And we ask our politicians to help us to obtain colored officers, for we are tired of pulling fame and a name out of the jaws of hell for white officers. There are many other lucrative positions besides commissions in the regular Army that are open to a young man of education. All of the clerical work in the commissary and quartermaster's departments are done by enlisted men, and hundreds of thousands of dollars pass through their hands annually, and they have to account for every penny of it. And consequently, a term of three years judiciously spent in the Army is an advantage superior to a collegiate course. It improves him physically, broadens his mental views, gives him a perfect knowledge of discipline, and fits him to compete with enterprises in commercial business. You must remember that I am dictating from thirty years experience in military life and not from hearsay or history.

The Bishops and ministers of the race ought to explain to the young men of their communities the bright chances they have in the regular Army over those menial positions they hold at present in hotels and barber shops. There are hundreds of N. C. Staff positions which pay from \$25 to \$45 with everything furnished.

Yours sincerely,

E. D. GIBSON,

Sergt. U. S. Army.

Salem, Roanoke, Va.

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Miss Bell Davis is making a big hit in Vaudeville. She played last week at Hyde and Beeman's Theatre, Brooklyn, N. Y., and her coon songs were the feature of the bill. She speaks of making a tour of Europe this year. She is a great favorite in London, having made a great hit there with "Isham's Oriental America" company during its tour of Europe a few years ago. "Oriental America" was the largest company of colored performers that has ever visited Europe from these shores. The Fisk Jubilee Singers have made a great hit in Europe also, but never has a company of up to date performers with its racy time choruses made such a demonstration as "Oriental America" did.

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