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A KENTUCKY GENIUS

**STEPHEN BELL, TEACHER
AND PUBLIC SERVANT**

**A Master Mind Refutes the Charge
That Negroes Have no Capacity for
Original Thought - A Natural Leader
and Organizer in Lodge and Politics**

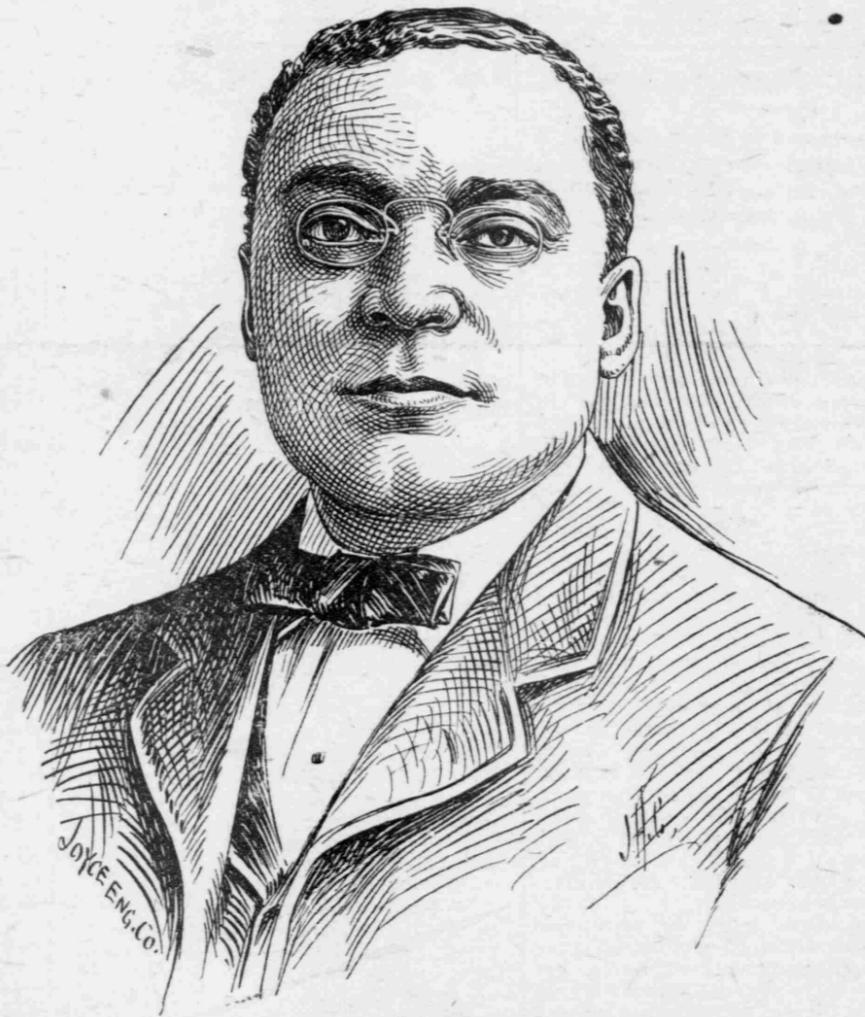
"Give me a man that is not passion's slave and I will wear him in my heart's core, yea, in my heart of hearts, as I do thee. For thou hast been one who in suffering all, has suffered nothing; a man that fortune's buffets and rewards, hast taken with equal thanks. And blessed are those whose blood and judgment are so well commingled that they are not a pipe for fortune's finger to sound what stop she please."

These thoughts occur to us when contemplating the promising life of Mr. Stephen Bell, upon whom all who know him, look with love and admiration.

On October the 9th, 1868, in the metropolis of the State of Kentucky, the subject of our sketch first opened his eyes upon the light and glory of this world. Born of humble, honest, respectable and industrious parentage, Mr. Bell had to endure, through his scholastic period, the ordinary privations and sacrifices incident to "The slow rise of worth by poverty depressed;" but with unconquerable resolution, invincible will and unflinching courage, he fought his way, from comparative obscurity, over appalling obstacles, against overwhelming odds, to the serene heights of mental, moral and financial importance, that have made his name known, respected and praised throughout the length and breadth of his native State. In his early days at school, he was of quick mettle and gave unmistakable evidence of that mental acumen which in youth, ever foreshadows a splendid intellectual equipment which needs only years of maturity to enable it to blossom into a perfect flower.

The writer of this article had occasion for many years to study Mr. Bell's character, his habits of thought and to ascertain something of their moous-operandi. Mr. Bell was analytical and positive in his mode of thought; he sought to know the why and wherefore of things. His mother had dowered him with imagination and the higher qualities of the soul beyond all her other children. His genius was distinctly mathematical. He had in a wonderful degree, the faculty of calculation. Many a time I have seen him dispose of a difficult proposition in algebra, geometry or trigonometry with the most astounding facility—almost by intuition, and apparently unconscious of the perplexities it offered to others. His original method of demonstrating the Pythagorean Theorem, and his unique mode of showing the ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a circle have challenged the admiration of scholars far and near. To my mind, the wonderful intellectual advancement of the Negro

MEN OF THE HOUR.



HON. EDWARD H. MORRIS.

Chicago's Leading Barrister, Favorably Considered for a Judgeship in the Philippines.

race, in the short period of freedom, has never been satisfactorily explained by the ordinary time honored hypothesis generally assumed; and when the true history of the development of human intellect shall have been written, it will be found that the sciences of algebra, astronomy, geometry, chemistry and theology had their origin among a black race of men, on the banks of the Nile, the Niger, the Tigris-Euphrates and on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. This race had its dark ages and is now entering upon its renaissance. The mind of man, by lying fallow for centuries, gathers strength and out of this desire for knowledge, this thirst of the mind, this hunger of the soul, genius is necessarily born. In this way we can rationally account for the extraordinary intelligence of such men as Stephen Bell. We can see why they have such a broad, intellectual horizon and why above their heads such a mental sky. Upon Mr. Bell's graduation from the Central High School he at once entered upon the serious business of life. In

1887 he began teaching school and taught until 1890. In October, 1890, he went to Philadelphia, Pa., and opened a cafe at 1213 Lombard street. The mathematicians around the neighborhood of the Pennsylvania University interested him more than his business, and he sold it out and took a brief course in his favorite study. He then returned to his native city and resumed his duties as a teacher which he continued to discharge for ten years. In politics Mr. Bell is a Republican and has been active and powerful in the councils of the local organization. He founded the Young Men's Republican Club and took it to Canton in 1896. In that memorable campaign of education, Mr. Bell had the superintendence of the distribution of literature in this part of the political vineyard, and he saw to it that the humblest citizen, in the meanest cottage had opportunity to read and discuss the issues of that great monetary controversy. He was a delegate to the State convention that nominated Hon.

G. A. R. ENCAMPMENT

**PLANS FOR RECEPTION OF
COLORED VETERANS**

**Mr Daniel Murray, a Leading Citizen,
to Direct the Labors of a Section of
the Committee on Public Comfort—
A Separation that is Not Discrimina-
tion**

Committees are being formed now to take charge of the many details connected with the coming encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic. B. I. Warner, one of our most enterprising and public-spirited citizens, is chairman of the general committee, and Mr. Barry Bulkeley is secretary. The Negro visitors to this function in October will be numerous, and naturally the colored people of Washington are anxious to give the colored veterans and their friends a royal welcome to the nation's capital. The committee that has most to do with this phase of the entertainment is that on public comfort—and upon the Negro's relation to that committee, it is to be regretted that a hitch has come.

For a time it seemed that we would be ignored by the leaders in the encampment project, and it did have a strange aspect that the committees announced from day to day were minus Negro names. THE COLORED AMERICAN sent a letter to Mr. Warner calling attention to the unjust omission. The reply, however, that Mr. Daniel Murray and Prof. George William Cook had been selected on the general committee, and that plans were under way for a much larger representation, apparently served to mollify the people who were not satisfied previously. It will be remembered that during the arrangements for President McKinley's second inaugural, the interests of the colored citizens were looked after by a colored section of the public comfort committee, with Mr. Daniel Murray as chairman. The work of this gentleman and his associates was so capably performed that it is understood that Mr. M. I. Weller has again tendered Mr. Murray a similar position in connection with the encampment affair. It is set forth that thirty or forty first-class colored citizens are to be appointed on the public comfort committee, upon the recommendation of Mr. Murray, who, with him as chairman, will assume full charge of the matter of securing the list of available stopping places, direction of visitors and the disbursement of the appropriation for expenses.

A second chapter comes, however, in the protest of the Colored Ministerial Union against the formation of a "separate" committee, describing the Weller proposition as a "jim crow annex." The delegation visiting Chairman Warner and Weller was headed by Revs. O. M. Waller, Sterling N. Brown, A. C. Garner and others. Their memorial Bolding and others. Their memorial

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