

FOR NAVAL OFFICER.

Name of Col. James Lewis, One of the Famous "Old Guard," Proposed—Directly in Line of Promotion.

As yet, President Roosevelt has made no permanent appointment as Naval Officer at the Port of New Orleans, La. For the time being, the duties of the post are devolving upon the chief deputy, Mr. Holland. It is almost certain that the President will follow the custom of the past thirty years and recognize the just claims of the colored voters by designating one of our race to fill this desirable office. Several candidates have placed applications on file and their papers are being carefully considered.

In the front rank of Louisianians whose names are mentioned among the "available" for Naval Officer is Col. James Lewis. While his appointment has been urged by some friends high in



COL. JAMES LEWIS.

the party councils, he has presented no formal application; but it is universally conceded that he is directly in line of promotion and can stand the required test of fitness if long and faithful service in the army in the party calls for anything. Republicanism cannot boast of a more ardent exponent than Colonel Lewis.

He has been continually on the firing lines since he left the United States army in 1864, with the rank of Captain. In 1865 he was appointed a traveling agent in the educational department of the Freedmen's Bureau, opening schools for freedmen in 1868; was appointed sergeant on Metropolitan police, and in less than one year was promoted to Captain for brave and meritorious service. In 1870 he was nominated by the Republican Convention and elected administrator of police and served two years, when in 1872 he was again nominated and elected administrator of public improvements for the city of New Orleans, defeating General G. P. T. Beauregard for that office. That year he headed the Louisiana delegation to the Republican National Convention at Philadelphia. He has always so conducted himself as to command the respect and confidence of all classes, regardless of race or party, which is not an easy matter, coming up through reconstruction in the South. Strict integrity, indomitable will power has won a high standing seldom attained by one of our race. In 1877 he was elected to the United States Senate for the short term and Governor W. P. Kellogg for the long term. The Packard State Government not being sustained, he refused to present his credentials, but the Governor contested and was seated in the Senate. President Hayes then appointed Colonel Lewis Naval Officer at the port of New Orleans, which office he held until 1880. Being a delegate to the Republican National Convention at Chicago, he joined forces and cast his lot with the "old guard" of 306, under the masterful Roscoe Conkling. He is the proud possessor of a personal letter received after the convention from General Grant, thanking his friends for their friendship and steadfastness to him; that and his medal of the old guards are highly treasured by himself and family. In 1883 President Chester A. Arthur ap-

pointed him United States Surveyor General for Louisiana, which place he held until he resigned to the Democratic administration of President Cleveland. After the election of President Harrison and the appointment of Governor H. C. Warmoth as Collector of the Port of New Orleans, he was appointed Clerk, Acting Deputy Collector and Inspector of Immigration. On the election of President McKinley, he was again appointed United States Surveyor General, which place he is now filling, with marked ability.

Colonel Lewis has always been active, in whatever lines, looking to the betterment of the race and party. He has always been active in Grand Army affairs. He is a Thirty-third Mason, a Past Grand Master and Past Grand Commander of Knights Templars. Socially but few distinguished visitors have visited New Orleans that do not know of the hospitality of Colonel Lewis' splendid home. General U. S. Grant has been entertained in it. He has a wife and five children. A daughter graduated in music and drawing from the New England Conservatory of Music at Boston last year, and she is now a teacher of drawing in the public schools of New Orleans. His sons are holding good and responsible places in business houses in their home city.

Colonel Lewis' record is an open book. It is the story of struggle and triumph, and presents a picture of which any race should be proud. President Roosevelt could not perform a more graceful act than send to the Senate the name of this gallant old "war horse" as Naval Officer at the port of New Orleans.

MR. HILYER'S SUGGESTION.

Men Actively Engaged in Trade Should Lead in Organizing Business League.

EDITOR COLORED AMERICANS—The suggestion of "The Man-on-the-Corner" that a meeting be called looking to the formation of a branch of the National Negro Business League is a good one. The National Convention will meet in Richmond next, August. It would be a great pity if this matter should be allowed to go by default and Washington, the capital of the Nation, should not be represented. The business interests of colored people in Washington, while by no means what they should be, judged by their numbers and earnings, is yet considerable. A good beginning has been made. The race is slowly but surely learning to patronize one another in business. A hard lesson, but they are learning it.

The suggestion, however, that the writer and the Union League should lead in the movement to organize a local league is not well made. Let some of our active business men who are in the harness, take the lead. I am sure the Union League will push it along. Let Mr. Bailey, Mr. McCary, Mr. Dabney, C. L. Marshall, Jefferson Bros., Gray & Bro., Mr. Jefferson the contractor of South Washington, E. Murray, and such men start this movement. If they start it it will be a success.

ANDREW F. HILYER.

Petition for Morrell Bill.

The District Afro-American Council has put into circulation a petition addressed to both houses of Congress, urging the early passage of the Morrell bill, which forbids railroad officials from separating passengers on account of race or color. The papers are in series and are being pushed in many quarters. The bill should be enacted into law in the interest of decency and fair play to a loyal people and the only way to secure practical results is to show to Congress that the race is terribly in earnest about the matter.

A mass meeting was held last evening at Blaine Invincibles Hall, under the auspices of the Personal Liberty League. The principal speaker was Lawyer Thomas L. Jones who protested vigorously against Negro disfranchisement and the Jim Crow car evil. Others made short addresses.

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