

**NATIONAL DRILL AND ENCAMPMENT 1887**

**WASHINGTON D.C. MAY 23 to 31 1887**

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FREEDMAN STATUE OF WASHINGTON

**FROM ALL POINTS IN THE UNION MAGNIFICENT CORPS. SPACIOUS & BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS.**

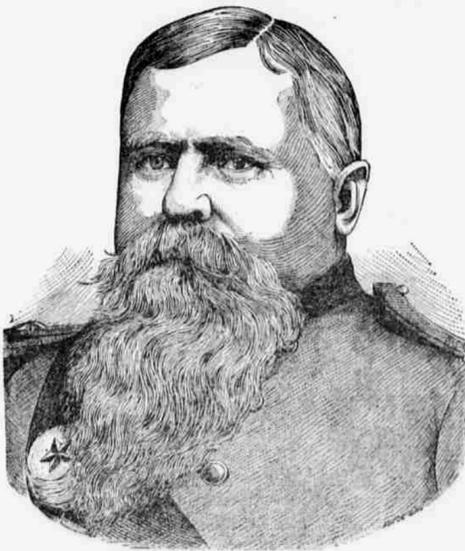
T. C. DE LEON, MANAGING SECRETARY.  
CHAS. S. BRADLEY, TREASURER.



District Commissioner S. E. Wheatley.

"The young Commissioner," as Hon. Samuel E. Wheatley is properly called, seems justly entitled to the descriptive adjective. Born in Georgetown D. C., on the 27th of March, 1847, he has not yet turned his forty-third annual corner, and possesses all the mental and physical vigor of youth. He is, moreover, a thoroughly representative District man, having been educated at Halliwell's High School, at Alexandria, then a part of the government reservation. At an early age Mr. Wheatley went into business life, showing peculiar aptitude therefor. His twentieth year found him conducting the large and growing lumber business of Wheatley Brothers, in connection with the younger sons of Francis Wheatley, a respected merchant, to whose popularity and success the young firm succeeded. In this practical experience the present Commissioner acquired and confirmed those habits of methodical decision and direct frankness which he has so conspicuously carried into business life; and the best of his nature inclines him ever to the judicial and executive branches of office, rather than the political. Some two years since, April 1, 1886, Samuel E. Wheatley was commissioned as one of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia; and he at once went to the work of that position with the same energy and straightforward purpose which characterizes all he undertakes. Thus we find "the young Commissioner," at the comparatively early age of 41, filling a position equivalent to the majority of another city at the Capital of the United States, and so filling it as to have made host of warm friends, under most trying circumstances, with remarkably few enemies, even among the inevitable ranks of the disappointed. Stalwart in physique, and plucky and brave as 200 pounds' manly, and courteous in bearing, and simple in his tastes and habits, Mr. Wheatley's uniform courtesy and dignity are results of a genial and gentle nature. This draws to him both older and younger men, and holds them with strong bonds. The personal esteem in which he is held is attested by his active connection with several local institutions of a business and social character, and his

popularity may be pointed by the presidency of the noted Potomac Boat Club, composed of the best youth of his native city. Among the very first to grasp the advantages to this public, sure to follow the National Drill, Mr. Wheatley was its promoter and zealous advocate from the very inception of the idea; and nothing in his public life has shown more clearly his foresight, as well as his judgment and knowledge of men, or more keen regard for the best interests of his constituents of the District. He has gathered around him the clearest practical heads and most conservative representatives of all branches of business; and the prompt formulation of a laborious work, and its already high standing, both at home and abroad, is due largely to his capital selection of the right men for the right places. Unanimously chosen chairman of the general committee, and later, of the executive, Mr. Wheatley has been unremitting in zeal and industry for the cause, and whatever of success is now certain to crown this national event, will redound in large measure to his credit.



General Fitzhugh Lee.

GENERAL FITZHUGH LEE, the present governor of the State of Virginia, was connected with the United States army previous to the war; he entered West Point as a cadet from Virginia in 1863, and on his being graduated in 1865 was made second lieutenant of cavalry; in the celebrated expedition against the Comanches, which gave the first clasp to the name Van Dorn, he acted as adjutant and distinguished himself for bravery; on the breaking out of the rebellion he retained his post till the enemy were in Virginia, when he joined them, and in the almost endless skirmishes between the cavalry of the two armies in Virginia, he displayed singular ability. Much might be said and written of General Fitzhugh Lee's past, but his name has been recorded in history in connection with that of his relative General Robert Lee, and the name of Lee in the State of Virginia needs no recommendation, needs no praise; as a soldier he has been ever noted for his bravery; as a citizen for his honor, and as an official for the zealous maintenance of the commonwealth.



Mr. T. C. De Leon.

Late managing editor of the *Mobile Register*, and now managing secretary of the National Drill, though a native of Columbia, South Carolina, is a Washingtonian by education and adoption. Nominated for President Thomas Cooper, of the State University, an intimate of his father, Mr. De Leon was early left the ward of his brother, Edwin De Leon, the colleague of Elwood Fisher, in the "Southern Press" (Ultra-Southern organ here), and later Consul-General to Egypt under the Pierce and Buchanan administrations. Coming to Washington as a child and educated here, he early took office, under the secretaryship of Mr. Jefferson Davis, in the Topographical Engineer Bureau, then going South on the assumption of the war portfolio by Joseph Holt.

Early in life Mr. De Leon developed journalistic tastes, and shortly after the surrender we find him in Baltimore and New York on the critical and literary staff of several journals. In the former city he created and edited the *Cosmopolitan Monthly*; in the latter he published the pioneer volume of Southern war poems, called "South Songs," and a travesty of the Ku-Klux mystery, which sold over 17,000 copies in its first week, on a wager with the publishers, Hlock & Co. This was in 1869, and the next year Mr. De Leon published in the *Sunday Times* his serial, "Four Years in Rebel Capitals," widely copied and vigorously attacked by the press of both sides. During the Seymour and Blair convention, his "Dumme Browne" letters to the Baltimore papers and Louisville *Courier-Journal* brought him invitation to take the managing editorship of the *Mobile Register*, then the leading Democratic organ of the South. There, for ten years (as colleague of John Forsyth, and as his successor after

death), Mr. De Leon made a reputation as a fearless, non-partisan writer; finding time for literary ventures in translations of French novels, magazine articles for Harper's, Appleton's and Leslie's magazines, and for several plays. His travesty of "Hamlet, ye Diana Prince," ran its hundred nights at the New York Olympic, with George Fox as the Dane. His comedy-drama, "Pluck," was played both by Lawrence Barrett and George Clarke, and the former produced the "Edwin Drood," afterwards starred in by Daniel Bandmann, at the New York Grand Opera House and through the South. At the Grand Opera, under the Jim Fisk regime, Mr. De Leon also produced his "Paris, or Days of the Commune," apropos to the German occupation of the French Capital. About the same time Lippincott published his most successful story, a Christmas brochure called "Cross Purpose," which commanded large sale and was commended by the critics. Taking the "Creole carnival fever" early in his Gulf City residence, Mr. De Leon became a perfect enthusiast in those unique displays, devoting much time and study to their conception and perfecting for several years, Vicksburg, Pensacola, and other provinces of the "Mother of Mystics," credit him with effective organizations, and in 1881 Mobile was complimented by his invitation to Baltimore to design and carry out her first Oriole Carnival in the Yorktown centennial year.

Lately Mr. De Leon was the secretary and working member of the "Interstate Drill and Encampment" at Mobile in 1885, said to be the most successful of all interstate gatherings of the national guards. Here he published another laborious work, "The Soldiers' Souvenir," in history and picture of national guard commands. Last year staid old Albany decided to celebrate her two-hundredth birthday by a week of Creole Carnival, and Mr. De Leon was again invited by the mayor and citizens' committee to undertake the management of a work which the entire press of New York proclaimed a success.

It was on his return thence that two of three active citizens of Washington conferred with him as to a singular gala week here, and the result was the birth of the National Drill and his selection as its manager.

Energetic, enthusiastic, and a tireless worker, Mr. De Leon has put his whole soul into this event, and declares it will surpass any of the many successes he has been connected with. As a Chicago paper lately said, he is "the busy man of America to-day."

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