President Taft with the Alumni

Hopes Alumni Will Raise Enough Money to Build Gymnasium

Tells "Blue and White" Alumni that Mob Leaders Should Hang

Executive Cites English Tribunals as Good Example—Points Out That Violence Has Been Shown Both North and South of Mason and Dixon's Line, and That Dispatch of Justice Would Put Stop to Great Evil

President Taft addressed the Alumni at their Gymnasium Rally in the Metropolitan A. M. E. Church last Tuesday Night. The Rally was held for the purpose of arousing interest in the $10,000 Gymnasium Movement among the Alumni of the University. Many contributions and pledges were made. On being introduced, President Taft was greeted with the "Howard Clap."

"I think that rather more sensible," remarked Mr. Taft, "than the Yale yell. You notice I only use the comparative."

"I cannot state as well as your Chairman has stated, my view of the necessity for the existence of Howard University. I can only repeat in language less well chosen that I believe it to be essential in the development of the Negro race that we should have universities furnishing the highest education possible, distributed over the country, for the purpose of educating those who are to be leaders of that race.

"Every once in a while I meet a man whose vision is all clouded, who talks about the waste of money in teaching Negroes the curriculum of an academic institution, of sending them to the University, with the statement that it is better that they shall go to a manual training institution. The man who could make that speech does not understand that here is a race that is striving upward and onward, that needs men who shall lead it, men who shall figure in the learned professions among them as physicians, as lawyers, and especially as ministers. It is essential if the race is to make its headway as it ought, and those of us who were responsible for its coming here are responsible for furnishing the means by which they shall lift themselves. It is essential that we should encourage this as far as possible, and furnish the means ourselves in so far as it may be proper for the institution of such colleges as Howard and Fisk and other institutions of that character for the higher education of the Negro.

Now these people that are worrying about the waste of money on that account needn't sit up nights on the subject, for I have looked into the question of the amount of money that is invested in these institutions, and there is nowhere near enough to furnish the education that is needed by the Negro race of this country. The funds are not sufficient. Howard University is under the shadow of the Capitol, and properly receives and ought to receive money enough to make it a broadly educational institution. Of course it is well to have voluntary contributions where you can get them, but where you cannot get them, they ought to be pieced out with Government appropriations.

Now we need gymnasiums of course. We need gymnasiums because they are the means in the city of maintaining the physical exercise that is essential for the health of the body, and without a healthy body you cannot have a healthy brain. You may get along for a while, but after a time if the body wears out, the brain will, and the only way to keep them going in the proper normal condition is to have a regular and healthy exercise. I do not mean that you have to cultivate your muscles until they will bulge out, but you must have exercise so that all the normal functions work in a healthy way, and there is nothing that contributes to that so much as a gymnasium. No well equipped university is without a means of exercise near at hand in all kinds of weather, and that is what a gymnasium is for. I sincerely hope that you may get it. Howard University can never call on me for anything in the way of developing that university that I will not respond.
But unfortunately I do not have the purse strings of the government. It is generally essential that my signature should be on a bill before it becomes a law, and that applies to appropriation bills as well as to any other bills, but it is a good deal harder to get the signature of the Speaker or the President of the Senate than it is mine, on appropriations.

"I speak of Howard University as a type. It is here in Washington. It represents the headship in a way of the education of the Negro, and therefore those of us who feel a responsibility about the working out and helping to come the leaders of the race. He high ideals and I believe they have worked out the great problem of the Negro race look upon it as a type of the instrumentality that is essential in that development. We believe in the higher education of the Negro so that the leaders of the Negro race may have high ideals and I believe they have. I believe that they subscribe as some other elements in our community don't, to the reign of law, to the respect for constituted authority, for institutions under our Constitution as they are.

The president announced that he was of the opinion that those who were responsible for the advent of the Negro race into this country should place its members in a position to elevate themselves, and declared that institutions should be scattered throughout the nation for the training of the men who are to become the leaders of the race. He said that he could be counted on to lend his support to any movement that had as its object the development of Howard University.

**Calls our Courts Good**

"We have very good courts if they are only respected. The trouble about it is that we don't always have public opinion strong enough to support the authority of the courts. We don't always find that individuals are stiff enough and rigid enough in their view of the enforcement of the law and the respect for the law to be throughout the length and breadth of the land."

"Take the matter of lynching. That, as well as the administration of our criminal law, form a disgraceful page in our social history. I just think it is well to take a text on that subject. I know that our courts are not perfect. I know that they don't apply the law with the certainty and dispatch in criminal cases that they ought to, and I believe that part of this departure from law into lynching and disorder is due to the fact that courts are not full of dispatch in disposing of criminal cases."

"But we must not attribute it all to the courts. There is among our people a disposition to forget the sanctity of the law, and to ignore the fact that no civilized country can live unless the law is respected. Now lynching is justified because it is said to only apply to one offense that is particularly heinous in the minds of all of us. That is not true. Statistics show that lynching is applied to a great many crimes."

**Lawlessness Examples Dreadful**

"The moment that the mob acquires that wolffish desire for human blood, the example is dreadful to the community in which the exhibition of lawlessness is given. There is not any crime—I don't care what it is—that justifies a departure from law in the punishment of the person who is charged with guilt."

"One of the serious questions we have to face in this country is that we have not among our people as profound a respect for the law and the necessity for obedience to it we ought to have, and that is part of the reason why we have these exhibitions of lawlessness over the country and these cruel murders, for that is all they are.

"It is not any less a murder because 400 men take part in it than because one man does. Ordinarily it is accompanied by a good deal more cowardice because 400 men are in it instead of one. The only way by which it can be suppressed is that sometime we shall have men as sheriffs and as governors and as prosecutors and as jurors who will see to it that the men who are engaged in pulling the rope under these conditions shall themselves swing by the rope. We need not sit snugly by, those of us in any particular section, and think we are better than those in any other, because that lawlessness has shown its ugly head both North and South of Mason and Dixon's line, and it is to be condemned wherever it appears, and it is to be suppressed only by an improvement in the individual opinion of the necessity for the enforcement of law."

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Value of the Courts

"Everything—and I am bound to say I believe this thoroughly—that goes to minimize the respect for the courts, the respect for the enforcement of law, and the following of law just as it contributes to the continuance of that abuse and to the continuance of that lawlessness which all deplore theoretically, but which, I am sorry to say, we at times express too much sympathy with. It is the courts upon which our entire civilization rests. It is through the courts that our individual liberty, our right to pursuit of happiness, and our right to hold property are to be secured.

"They don’t have lynching in England. Now, why don’t they have it? It is because the criminal law in England is enforced with certainty and dispatch. They punish crime, and they punish it promptly. They have the same guarantees with respect to life, liberty and property, the same guarantees as to those accused of crime as we have. And yet they go on and try every case, and convictions follow.

"They don’t have to have a murder case take six weeks, and have it tried in the newspapers with all the headlines and all the maudlin sentiment and all the flowers that are sent to the murderess. When a man is tried there, he is guilty or not. They call the witnesses, and they don’t take five or six weeks to get a jury. They get a jury in a day and they put it through. Now that kind of enforcement of law shows first, respect for law, and, second, such an enforcement of it that no one can make an excuse for lynch law.

Way to Improvement

"I believe that we can improve matters by making our courts more expeditious, and I think in so doing we shall take away part of the excuse, but on the other hand the best way to improve a people after all—I don’t mean to depreciate the usefulness of instrumentalties in a change of government and a change of method and a change of law—but the real method of improving a community is to improve and make higher the standard of the individual.

"Now I sincerely hope that you will raise money enough to build this gymnasium. I hope that Howard University will continue to grow in usefulness. I am glad to know that the number of its scholars is increasing. They ought to increase.

"It is a pleasure to know that you have such an effective and efficient president who has given his heart and mind and soul to the development of the institution, and I am glad that you have a body of alumni and alumnae that for the strength of the university and create a public opinion that will work for its growth and will give sufficient support to it throughout your community to call for a proper respect for it by the community at large and by Congress in its most useful appropriations." I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak here, and of saying that whenever I can help Howard University call on me.

Other Speakers

Dr. Wilbur P. Thirkield, president of the university, declared that the doors of higher education must be opened to all men, without regard to race. He based his plea for funds for a gymnasium upon the ground that this institution tends to develop the highest and broadest type of manhood.

Dean Kelly Miller presided at the meeting. In introducing the president he thanked him for the recognition which Taft had accorded the Negro race by appointing Wm. H. Lewis to the position of an assistant to the Attorney General. Other addresses in the interest of the gymnasium were delivered by A. D. Washington, Robert A. Pelham, Dwight O. W. Holmes and Shelby J. Davidson.

The large auditorium of the church was crowded, while its galleries, draped in the national colors, were well filled. Before the meeting adjourned cards were distributed, on which each member of the alumni and alumnae was asked to pledge a subscription to the gymnasium building fund.

Very Successful Season

Howard ends a very successful basketball season, making a total of 504 points against her opponents who made only 195.

The following was handed over to the assistant secretary of the Athletic Association to be filed as correct scores of the season, showing that Howard lost only two games during the season.

Games away from home:
Howard 46  St. Christopher 14
Howard 59  Jersey City 21
Howard 41  Alphas 21
Howard 35  Orange, N. J. 17
Howard 16  Hampton 19
Howard 19  Pittsburg 24
Howard 39  N. Y. All Stars 25

Games at home:
Howard 33  Hiawatha 2
Howard 67  Jersey City 7
Howard 51  Lincoln 19
Howard 112  N. Y. All Stars 10
Total 518  179

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Kappa Sigma Pays Tribute to Mr. C. C. Sanford

A few nights ago the Kappa Sigma Debating Society took occasion to pay a fitting tribute to Mr. C. C. Sanford, the founder of the Society. After Messrs. T. B. Neely, D. A. Davis, I. R. Berry, W. E. Ricks and others had spoken of his life and character, the society unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

"Whereas in the Providence of God, intelligence has reached us of the demise of our former fellow student and first president of the Kappa Sigma Debating Club, Mr. C. C. Sanford:

"And whereas we are desirous of placing on record our estimate of his character, his work, his spirit, and his achievements as a student and as a man, therefore be it,

"Resolved, That we bow in submission to the Divine Will, in removing him from our common mortal life, in the flower and promise of his years;

"Resolved, That we bear his virtues and his honesty and his high character, in reverent remembrance and that we strive to cultivate as did he those qualities which endeared him to us while he was a student in the university:

"Resolved, That we tender to the bereaved family of our deceased colleague our sincere condolence and sympathy and a copy of these resolutions,

"And be it further resolved, that as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased and in recognition of his faithful service in the Kappa Sigma Debating Club, that a copy of these resolutions be published in the UNIVERSITY JOURNAL."

Signed,

David A. Davis,
I. R. Berry.

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Pupils' Recital
Excellent Programme by Department of Music in Rankin Memorial Chapel

Forward! No other expression could more truly characterize the spirit and achievements of our musical Department. Another step forward was taken last Tuesday evening in Rankin Memorial Chapel, when the Department held its first public recital and thus inaugurated a series of musical exhibitions that are destined to become an enjoyable feature of our university life. The primary purpose of these recitals is to accustom the pupils to performance on the public platform. There is, however, a deeper and a broader significance in these musical entertainments for the University at large. There is no more important part of the character of the individual than its aesthetic or artistic aspect, for it alone borders on the soul and offers the medium for communication with the Divine. We who are seeking a liberal education and are aiming to round out our lives, will fall far short of our ideals, therefore, unless we cultivate the artistic musical within us. There is no surer way to accomplish this end than by attendance upon recitals such as have been instituted by the Department of Music. As the sage of New England, Thoreau, was wont to say, "There is just as much beauty visible to us in the landscapes as we are prepared to appreciate—not a grain more." Let us, students and teachers prepare ourselves to appreciate the beauties of music by being present at these musical exhibitions.

The program sounded the modern note of musical composition, the best works of the notable composers of the last few decades being presented. The wide variety of the selections and the broad range of moods appealed to gave a charm and delight to the members which the audience was not slow to appreciate. One of the many commendable features of the recital was the general refined atmosphere that pervaded it and the cultured deportment of those who took part—all was simple and dignified, graceful and artistic. Mr. Philip F. Worde, for example, who rendered the first two selections upon the piano, was perfectly at home on the platform and at the piano. His playing of the "Spring Song" by Hollaender and the "Valse Mignonne" by Shnutt was skillful in interpretation. Miss Oteele Wilkins in this her initial appearance here, chose a sprightly, sparkling piece from Chaminade, "Arabesque," and she spun these qualities into the silken web of her playing. Miss Cora M. Williams followed with another Chaminade piece, the "Valse Caprice," which she executed skilfully and charmingly. The first vocal number, "A Longing" was sung by Miss Marie Kent whose bell-like tones and sympathy of expression went straight to the hearts of the audience. Then followed two instrumental numbers: 'Sparks' (Moszkowski) by Miss Lillian J. Taylor; 'Polonaise,' (MacDowell) by Miss Eva B. Dykes. Both these young ladies by their grace of movement and accuracy of expression made us hope that we shall hear them frequently. Whoever there might have been who was oblivious to the presence of spring and to the approach of summer with her gladsome winsome ways, was made conscious of both by Miss Maline M. Thomas whose singing of "Summer" (Chaminade) was teeming with the vivid coloring and delightful warbling which characterize these seasons. A fitting climax to an unusually attractive program was the brilliant rendition by Miss G. Paola Green of Godard's "En Route." A pleasing confidence, deftness in key-manipulation, together with a keen

CAST OF "ONE OF THE EIGHT"

Reading from the rear, left to right: Mr. Myers, Director: Diamond, Franklin, Rudiem, George, Tavernier, Manager. Second Row: Mr. Logan, Assistant Director: Tollard, Bentely, Miss Evans, Miss Jackson, Crampton, Foster. First Row: Taylor, Miss Duncan, Carter, Miss Forrest, Williams and Jackson
discernment of the meaning of the piece and its sympathetic interpretation, mark Miss Green as a pianist of present excellence and of great future promise.

This excellent recital which was so thoroughly enjoyed by those present, was an achievement of great merit, and the University as well as the Director and her assistants, may well be proud of it. Real music was given—music which in the words of Saint-Saëns "traverses the ear as a door, the mind as a vestibule and which goes yet further."  

THOMAS M. GREGORY

A Negro at the Pole


Admiral Peary's assistant in the discovery of the north pole has shown that he can write entertainingly as well as work efficiently upon arctic expeditions. His little volume entitled "A Negro Explorer at the North Pole," makes a really valuable addition to the literature of Admiral Peary's final, successful expedition, so naively does he tell his story, with its innumerable bits of incident, occupation, description, emotion, comment. Many of the things he recounts are unimportant in themselves, but they help wonderfully in filling out the picture and in enabling the reader to get a more definite idea of what the life and labors of an arctic explorer are like. It is precisely because of the lack of these little colorful touches and because their authors are concerned solely with affairs of great moment that books of popular exploration so often do not appeal to the general reader. Matt Henson's narrative is a very personal one, and it is usually he who is the centre of his story. But, perhaps that fact, too, makes it gain in vividness, since it is always through his deeply interested eyes that we see all that is going on. Admiral Peary's brief "Foreword" is a cordial acknowledgment of Henson's efficiency in the work they have done together. Mr. Washington, in his "Introduction," draws attention to the aid that has been given to explorers by Negro assistants through so much of the history of this continent.

Lynchers Should Hang

"Take the matter of lynching. That, as well as the administration of our common law, forms a disgraceful page in our social history.

I know that our courts are not perfect. I know that they don't apply the law with certainty and dispatch, in criminal cases, that they ought to, and I believe that part of this departure from law into lynching and disorder is due to the fact that courts are not full of dispatch in disposing of criminal cases.

The moment that the mob acquires that wolfish desire for human blood, the example is dreadful to the community in which that exhibition of lawlessness is given. There is not any crime—I don't care what it is—that justifies a departure from law in the punishment of the person who is charged with guilt.

The only way by which it can be suppressed is that some time we shall have men as sheriffs, and as governors, and as prosecutors, and as jurors who will see to it that the men who are engaged in pulling the rope under those conditions shall themselves swing by the ropes.—President Taft at Howard University Alumni Gymnasium Rally.
"One of the Eight"

The second performance of "One of the Eight" with a partly new cast was given on the nights of March 28th and 29th at the Howard Theater with a howling success, both financially and artistically. The same play was presented last year in Rankin Chapel under the auspices of the Academy Class of 1911. This year however, it was presented by the Howard University Comedy Club.

Manager Tavernier had not left a single stone unturned to make the play just what it was; this linked with the assiduous work of Mrs. Herbert D. Myers and Joseph G. Logan, directors, made the production a thing creditable to the University in general.

The entire cast did such superb work that it was heard whispered after the second night that Manager Tavernier had an aggregation of all stars. This was, too, far from being an idle boast; for the work of Dismond, Franklin, Henley, George and Miss Duncan stood out preeminently in the front rank among amateur stage artists. The play in itself is far from being an easy one; it calls for good acting from beginning to end, and that is what the members brought to it for the most part of the production.

This little comedy argues, in a great measure the greater spirit of awakening and enlargement in Howard, when it is remembered that only some years back, it was next to impossible to present a collegiate dramatic performance. Now, how changed, there are two very good dramatic clubs in the University, and each doing good work in its field.

Too much credit cannot be given Manager Tavernier and Director Myers for the energetic way in which they labored to make the play a success. To them and the entire cast, the Athletic Association, for which the play was given, is deeply indebted.

Seniors Don Caps and Gowns

Tuesday the seniors of the School of Liberal Arts, following the custom, marched into Chapel to the tune of the University Orchestra's strains, donned in their long sought caps and gowns. Their reception by the student body and faculty was more marked than that given around here for some time. The Juniors banqueted the Seniors Thursday night at the annual Senior-Junior reception.

Senior Prom Announced

Invitations to the annual senior dance for Friday May 3rd., 1912, appeared on the campus during the week. Tickets for the event, which is now only three weeks away, have been out for some time. Admission, as usual, will be by invitation and ticket only.

Alpha Phi Alpha Initiates

The fifth annual initiation of Beta Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity was held last Friday evening. The following candidates were initiated: Messrs. William Pollard, Ellwood Downing and Edward Evans. Mr. Edwin Henry Lee, of Eta Chapter at Columbia University, has also become actively affiliated.

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