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A DEMAND FOR COMMERCIAL SCHOOLS

LETTERS sent to the colored high schools of the South and West seeking information concerning the means available for commercial education for Negroes in the United States, brought the following facts:

Richmond High School: "We have no classes in commercial course."

Nashville High School: "We have no commercial study in our high school course. There is a need for such studies."

Fisk University: "I have often thought a good commercial course would be of great advantage to all our students but the trouble has been to find a place for it."

Atlanta University: "I have no knowledge of farming. Mr. Junius G. Groves, of Edwardsville, Kansas, referred to as the potato king, is worth $80,000. The colored fruit growers of North Carolina alone ship about 2,000,000 crates of berries annually to the North. Mr. Carter, of Westfield, Indiana, bails hay and ships it to Indianapolis, Louisville, Chicago, New York City, Baltimore and Philadelphia. Mr. Turner, of Wilberforce, Ohio, ships a
In slavery the Negro was compelled not only to farm but also to wait upon the family in the "big house," to the end that today we have many successful caterers. Mr. John S. Trooper, of Philadelphia who died the other day, was worth $1,500,000. Mr. Smiley of Chicago and Mr. Moultrie of Yonkers, are among the largest tax payers in their respective cities.

Again the form and pressure of the black man's life during slavery compelled him to think most of, and find happiness in, the life beyond the grave. "Steal away to Jesus" was his daily thought. Out of this attitude in one way or another have grown up businesses which have for their function the care of the body at death. The many successful undertakers and insurance companies managed by members of our race are examples of such businesses for which slavery was a school.

But today slavery does not exist as a school. How shall the successors of these pioneers be educated? They have not the opportunity to serve apprenticeships in business houses today. Evidently then they must be educated commercially in commercial schools, and be encouraged to create business opportunities where they do not exist.

DEAN COOK'S LETTER

(Continued from page 1, column 2)

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CAMPUS JOTS

On Easter Sunday morning at 7 o'clock the Y. M. C. A., and the Y. W. C. A., held a joint prayer service in Library Hall. The meeting was largely attended.

Mr. Dyson will address the W. C. T. U., next Sunday, April 23rd, 1911. His subject is "The Woman's Crusade."

The lecture will be illustrated with a Radiopticon. A rare treat is in store.

Bishop Tanner conducted chapel services Thursday noon. After devotion he spoke briefly on the value of time as a common heritage. The Bishop, although he has reached the seventy-fifth mile stone, is still young and full of life.

Prof. Joiner a former instructor in Teachers' College and now head of the Superintendent of the Normal and Industrial Department of Wilberforce University was present at Chapel on the 13th and gave us a short and interesting address. We always welcome Prof. Joiner.

The Ancient History Club organized three years ago by Mr. Dyson, held its third annual meeting, Thursday, April 13th, in the Library Hall. Mrs. W. P. Thirkield delivered the annual address; subject: Mexico, its land and people. A large audience was present. As a token of their appreciation, the Club presented Mrs. Thirkield a beautiful Easter lily. -W. A. P.

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What Our Commercial Graduates are Doing

R. E. A. Adkins was graduated in 1903, taught for one year at Childrens' Temporary Home, Washington, D. C., of which Miss Susan B. Cook is superintendent; entered real estate and insurance business in Greensboro, North Carolina, October third, 1905.

This company has at present about $250,000 worth of real estate in charge in the state of North Carolina, and is doing more business than any other colored real estate concern in the state. They have also a contracting and building department connected with their business. His partner, Att'y G. H. Mitchell, the son of G. W. Mitchell who was at one time an instructor in Latin at Howard University, is a graduate of the Law Department of New York University. M. Adkins is also general manager of the western section of the Taylor's Mutual Life Insurance Company of the state, and has under his control forty-six towns and fifty-two agents.

At present Mr. Adkins is planning the formation of a Realty and Auction Company to sell property at auction to the highest bidder. They have bought a subdivision of land of 125 lots adjacent to the city of Greensboro. This they have opened up to colored people and already have erected 20 houses.

Mr. Raymond H. Murray

Mr. Murray was graduated in 1902; is a member of the very successful Murray Bros. Printing Company of Washington, D. C., and the manager of the famous Hiawatha Theatre. The Printing Company employs nine men regularly and very often runs day and night. This spring Mr. Murray will complete the pharmaceutical course of Howard University after which he will enter the drug business as his life-work.

Mrs. Mary A. Logan Ross

Mrs. Ross, a sister of Mr. Logan, head of science in the Academy of Howard University, graduated in 1902. She is at present bookkeeper for her husband who conducts the largest catering establishment in Lewiston, Maine.

Miss Anna Sewell

Miss Anna Sewell of the class of 1909 is the stenographer in the Washington Office of the International Secretaries of the Y. M. C. A.

Mr. William J. Banks

Mr. Banks, who graduated in 1910, is at present Assistant Treasurer of Vorhees Industrial School, Denmark, South Carolina.

Many others there are who are doing good and efficient work but whom space will not permit us to mention. We must, however, call attention to Mr. Walter Tibbs and Mr. Lincoln Norwood who are doing excellent work in the Teachers College of Howard University; and to Mr. Clarence Palmer who is doing post work in Rochester Commercial College, Rochester, N. Y. These gentlemen earn much of their tuition through their stenographic work.

Seniors Don Caps and Gown

In accordance with the ancient academic tradition, on Tuesday at noon, the seniors, of the School of Liberal Arts wearing their caps and gowns marched into Chapel and occupied the front seats. The procession led by Mr. Numa P. G. Adams, President, and Miss Ella V. Albert, Vice President, was a long one numbering thirty-six members. Amid hearty cheers the long line filed in and afforded a very impressive sight. Dignity, dignity: all was dignity. The march was played by Miss Dykes of the Freshman Class.

Washington Shoe Repair Manufactory

Miss Helen E. Kilbreth

Miss Kilbreth is assistant stenographer in the Secretary's office, Howard University.

Mr. George Hines

Mr. Hines graduated in 1906 and is at present the head of the Commercial Department of Western University, Kansas City, Kansas. Mr. Hines is also Secretary of the Local Howard Alumni Association.

Mr. Rashid

Mr. Rashid of the class 1909 is bookkeeper in Hahn's Shoe Store, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Theodore C. Carter

Mr. Carter is Secretary to Professor William A. Joiner who is Superintendent of the State College at Wilberforce, Ohio.
The Seniors of the School of Commerce, wearing their caps and gowns, marched into chapel at noon last Tuesday and were the victims of a few jokes just in time to mar the impressiveness and solemnity of the occasion. Every body knows that the traditional wearing of caps and gowns is “nothing new under the sun”, but it does in a large measure inspire the undergraduates and arouse a dormant spirit.

The Easter tide has come and gone and we must work again. Just one more month of solid work brings us to the end of a well spent year. A few students went home during the holidays, but most of them remained quietly at the University and enjoyed Easter in the spirit of its holiness. Easter harness, however, was seen butterflying around the campus. Easter lilies are hideous when compared to Minor Hall at Easter-tide.

OUR COMMERCIAL AGE

So commercial is this age, that the great merchant prince, the railroad president, the great manufacturer, or banker, has succeeded to the place of power once held by the great orator, statesman, lawyer, or clergyman. The professional class is losing ground; the business world is gaining it. Whether for weal or woe, the control of government, of society, of education, of the press, yes, even of the church, is slipping more and more rapidly into the hands of the business class; and it is this class which to an ever-increasing extent will dominate our political, social and educational life.

NOTE COMMERCIAL ISSUE

Upon request of the Commercial Department we have made this a Special Commercial Issue. The rapid development of industry among our people makes a strong demand for formal commercial training and Howard University offers a good four-year course in her Commercial College. In this paper there are set forth a few important facts concerning the commercial tendency of this age and some words descriptive of the work our Commercial College is doing under direction of Dean Geo. W. Cook. The rapidly growing industrial interests of the Negroes in the South make the preparation for a business career one of extreme importance. We of academic interests are inclined rather to underrate the importance of the business training. Every man in every walk of life ought to have sufficient training to know how to attend to his own business. There are a great many professional men who do not know how to write a promissory note and only a few know how to keep intelligible accounts. The greatest universities in this country have strong commercial courses and we should be glad that we have here a school of commerce, efficiency in the conduct of which tells through the success of its graduates.

COMMERCIAL EDUCATION IN GERMANY

The High School of Commerce in Germany corresponds somewhat to our Commercial High School. The curriculum consists of German, French, English, Commercial Practice, Bookkeeping, Commercial Arithmetic, Geography, History, Physics, Chemistry, Drawing, Commercial Correspondence in all Languages and shorthand, which is optional. The entrance age is from sixteen to eighteen. After three years spent in such a school, with from 28 to 31 hours weekly, the graduate is admitted into the Higher School of Commerce, provided that he spend two years after graduation as an apprentice in some line of work.

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THE VALUE OF SHORTHAND AND TYPEWRITING

By Miss Cora E. Dorsey, Instructor in Shorthand and Typewriting

As civilization advances, the all important question is, how to supply the increasing wants of man. Pressure is constantly being brought upon the commercial world for quicker thought and action in the transaction of business affairs.

In no one study are the principles of advancement brought into greater prominence than in the study of shorthand. Here there can be no indolence, no slowness, no putting off for to-morrow what should be done to-day. It is then an almost indispensable accomplishment for one intending to pursue a business career. To accomplish what is to be done in the shortest possible time is the aim of the hour. The man of affairs no longer has time to spend the greater portion of the day in writing many and tedious communications or in the preparation of legal briefs, documents, lectures, speeches or what not; but must in a few hours express his wishes and have his thoughts written as rapidly as uttered. The burden then is placed upon the shoulders of the stenographer. Modern invention has given him an assistant too; so that he may know where “the money goes”, and incidentally keep a check on unnecessary outgoes.

Because it teaches him how to do things methodically and gives valuable mental discipline. Herbert Spencer said that accounting problems were as good training for the mind as mathematics, and that with their continued practice the student's brain will become more perceptive and agile.

Because it may furnish him with a good paying profession with a chance to rise, as was said before the National Educational Association at its last meeting, "A knowledge of booking and a good supply of brains usually open the door to the managerial positions or to membership in the firm."

Because there is an increasing demand for trained bookkeepers, and to be a good bookkeeper opens the way to continue advancing in that line, and to become an expert accountant or an auditor. The colored people with improved opportunities for education are becoming capable and prosperous and are entering into varied and extensive business enterprises that make them need bookkeepers and auditors.

Furthermore, the colored schools must soon answer the demand for commercial education, as the white schools have been.

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The Kappa Alpha Nu Organizes

The colored students of Indiana University have organized the Kappa Alpha Nu Fraternity. The fraters, eleven in number, occupy a house at 425 East Kirkwood Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana. A fraternity among the colored students in white schools is essential to promote a brotherhood and to provide means for recreation and social intercourse and especially in those schools in which prejudice is strong. The Kappa Alpha Nu seeks to establish chapters in other universities. The colored students in the various universities are beginning to see the advantage of wholesome fraternity life. The Kappa Alpha Nu is, however, not the only colored fraternity in the country, as has been stated in the Indiana Daily Student.

The Alpha Phi Alpha, a colored national fraternity, with its mother chapter at Cornell University is five years old. It held its third annual convention in Philadelphia last Christmas. Its next convention will be held at University of Michigan during the Christmas holidays of the next school year. This organization has ten chapters located at Cornell, Howard, Union University, Yale, Columbia, University of Chicago, Syracuse University, University of Michigan, Ohio State and University of Toronto, Canada. The General Organization has 202 members. The Alpha Phi Alpha is growing and in order to avoid over expansion had to refuse application for membership from various Universities. The fraternity is now devoting its time in perfecting its organization.

Professor Miller Speaks at the Y. M. C. A. Meeting

"Seldom is it the privilege of a speaker to address as brilliant an audience as assembled in the new Howard Theatre to hear Dean Kelly Miller on Easter Sunday Afternoon, and seldom is it the privilege of an audience to listen to as brilliant, illuminating an inspiring a masterpiece as he delivered. After an eloquent introduction, by ex-Registrar Vernon, in which he characterized the Dean as a man that is a credit to his race, not only because he is a thinker, philosopher, writer, and educator, but a Christian gentleman as well, Doctor Miller developed his subject, "Righteousness" in such a thorough, philosophical, scientific and religious manner that the audience felt that the introduction was justified.

During the course of his remarks Dean Miller held the audience spell bound and at its close the audience showed it great appreciation of the masterpiece by rocking the theatre with tremendous applause for at least five minutes. Dean Miller seems to improve with each succeeding public utterance, and he not only reflects credit and honor upon himself, but the University in general, and the College Department in particular, are the chief beneficiaries of wonderful genius and intellect. — E. C. Terry

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OPPOSITION TO COMMERCIAL EDUCATION

It is of interest to know that the commercial schools of Germany were until recently separate and apart from the general system of education. They were supported mostly by tuition and contributions from commercial societies and chambers of commerce. This separate organization came about from the fact that the German educators at first opposed the introduction of commercial and industrial work. They thought it would undermine their intellectual supremacy, in which they justly took and still take great pride. Then, too, they thought it would give the laboring class too much power and thereby promote socialism. Fortunately, however, such has not yet been the case. And to-day the classical schools of the country are introducing commercial courses in the upper grades of their work, to the end that Germany to-day is not only supreme intellectually, but has, more nearly than any other nation, approached the solution of the problem of the modern economic states.

—W. D.

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ATHLETICS

The Inter-Scholastic Athletic Association Handbook will be published in July. Over 10,000 copies will be gotten out and will be sent to institutions for members of our race throughout the country. Athletic clubs, schools and athletes desiring team pictures inserted therein must get the pictures to the editor of the handbook at 406 U Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. The team must present a neat, uniformed appearance, and the athletes should be grouped well. All pictures, records of games, and matters of general interest must be sent in by May 30th.

The 6th Annual Field and Track Meet of the Inter-Scholastic Athletic Association of the Middle Atlantic States will take place on the 27th of May in Washington, D.C. This is perhaps the largest track meet for colored athletes held on of doors in the country and provides for three classes of competition, among scholastic, club, and elementary school athletics.

This Association built the track upon the campus of Howard University, and erected at its first meeting the first stand to seat spectators at an athletic contest on the campus. Professors W. A. Joiner and W. J. DeCatur are largely responsible for the excellent showing made by Howard in the world of track and field athletics.

The popularity of these contests is due to the fact that athletes are provided competition in their class and the eligibility rules are strictly adhered to. Scholastic athletes compete in that class when under the age of 21 years. Open athletes are handicapped so that all who enter may have a chance on the winning end. Each year is furnishing more reliable data for handicapping athletes which insure close races in all of the contests. Elementary school boys are given a chance to compete in their class, the events first having to be sanctioned by the P.S.A.L. and must be governed by the same rules of eligibility that are rules of the P.S.A.L.

Silver and bronze medals are furnished and a large silver trophy will be contested for by scholastic athletes. Howard Academy athletes have won the large trophy on three occasions and M St. and Armstrong High Schools have had possession once each.

The events for this year's competition are, Scholastic, 100 yard dash, 220 yard dash, 440 yard run, 880 yard run, one mile run, 220 hurdles, 12 lb. shot, broad jump, one mile relay. Open, 100 yard dash, 440 yard run, one mile, 12 lb. shot, running high jump, 100 novice race. Elementary: 60 yard dash (95 lb.), 100 yard dash (any weight), 300 yard relay (115 lb. boys), 300 yard relay (any weight).

For information address E. B. Henderson, M. St. High School, Washington, D.C. 


dr. dubois to lecture

Dr. DuBois, Editor of the Crisis, scholar and noted lecturer will address the student body to-day at the regular chapel hour under the auspices of the Beta Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. A very large crowd is expected to hear this noted gentleman speak.

Howard University Alumni Reunion

Plans are being formulated for the greatest and most enthusiastic reunion yet held by the Howard University General Alumni Association. This meeting will occur on Commencement Day, May 31. It is expected that a large number of Alumni from all parts of the country will be in attendance.

Mound Bayou, Miss., April 11, 1911.

Dear Mr. Davis:

I am enclosing herewith, my check for the annual dues as a member of the Howard University Alumni Association.

I regret that I cannot be there this year but I know the good work is being kept up to the satisfaction of the entire world.

I am doing finely here and trust that you are enjoying the blessings of health.

With high regards, and best wishes, I am,

Yours truly, Fred D. Morris