CHAPTER XV

HOW DOUGLASS WAS REGARDED BY THE ROCHESTER PRESS.

FROM THE ROCHESTER UNION AND ADVERTISER.

The morning of February 26, 1895, the body of Frederick Douglass was brought to Rochester from Washington and borne to the City Hall, where it lay in state till the hour for the funeral in the afternoon. It is eminently appropriate that Frederick Douglass should be laid to rest in Mount Hope. As the older generation of Rochester men remember, and as has been repeatedly recalled within the past few days, it was here that the "North Star" rose. In this city its first feeble rays were turned on the darkness to the south. In Rochester the foundations of its editor's fame were laid. It is fit then that in Rochester the last wreath of praise should be laid upon his coffin.

The wealth of a nation is its glorious names and the story of their patriotic deeds. A city's great dead is a treasure that is incorruptible and continually active for good. The tomb of Frederick Douglass in time to come will bear mute witness to the reward of uprightness and unselfish devotion to the cause of right. To future generations it will evidence the honor paid to the courage and honesty which not only overcame the cruelest handicap of birth, but was instrumental in remolding the fate of a wronged people. If the public sense of justice should ever grow dim; if wrong should ever gain the advantage, the grave of Frederick Douglass will be an inspiration for true men to rise again. This is why it is well for this city that Frederick Douglass is buried here.

FROM THE ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE.

The unveiling of the Douglass monument June 9, 1899, was an event of more than local significance. It is not simply the figure of one who was formerly a distinguished resident of Rochester which is to be uncovered in the presence of a great multitude, but that of a man who in intellectual stature and gifts, as well as in the services he rendered to the cause of Freedom, was the supreme representative of his race.

Frederick Douglass was a princely man; princely in form and bearing, and princely in the qualities of his mind and heart. Born under the most disabling conditions which could encompass a human being in this land of ours, he broke, one after another, the fetters that bound him and rose to an altitude of moral and intellectual influence hardly equaled by that of any other man in the country. He owed nothing to adventitious fortune or aid. Always, from the hour when, as a slave boy, he asserted his right to liberty by leaving his master and home, down to the days of dignity and honor in old age, surrounded by the comforts as well as the luxuries of life won by his own efforts, he maintained unsullied the independence of his manhood. He was never the man to

> —bend the supple hinges of the knee,
> That thrift might follow fawning.

Often subjected to slurs and insults on account of his race and color, he maintained the simple dignity of his character, standing erect but not defiant, looking unabashed upon the liliputians whose sneers were of no more account to him than the humming of gnats in the air of a summer evening.

God endowed him with the gift of eloquent speech, speech that came from a heart large and tropical in its warmth, but not volcanic in its outbursts except against wrongs embodied in institutions and laws; speech that flowed in rounded sen-

tences, in vivid metaphors, in swordlike thrusts of wit around which always played the lambent light of a sunny humor. He had a broad, generous nature. He could make allowance for weakness, and pitied, as the Man of Galilee did, the unfortunate and the suffering. He loved the bright and happy phases of life. The bitter and acidulated spirit of cynicism met with no responsiveness from him. From first to last he was true to the cause of oppressed humanity whether it was found under the dark skin of his own race or among those who had formerly been his oppressors.

It is in honor of such a man that the monument provided for by the colored people of Rochester is to be unveiled tomorrow. The name and fame of Douglass have filled the world. In the days when his powers were at their zenith his eloquent voice was heard pleading for the rights of humanity, not only in the presence of great audiences and, sometimes, of hostile mobs in his own country, but before the great and the titled in foreign lands. It is therefore an honor to Rochester that a monument to his memory, symbolizing his personal presence, shall stand in one of our public places to remind citizen and stranger that Frederick Douglass always esteemed this as his home city. His dust lies embalmed in the sacred soil of Mount Hope, and his image will henceforth greet the eyes of our people, the token of a noble manhood which should prove an inspiration to future generations.

The event of June 9, 1899, will bring to Rochester the distinguished Governor of this commonwealth and other visitors of note. There will be a parade worthy of the occasion, and the citizens will have an opportunity to show that in this land of ours high merit, though it may have to fight many a battle against bigotry and prejudice, may in the end receive cordial recognition and sincere acknowledgment from all the people.

FROM THE ROCHESTER TIMES.

"What though on hamely fare ye dine,
Wear hodden grey an' a' that;
Gie fools their silks an' knaves their wine;
A man's a man for a' that."

To the memory of a man who dressed in plain clothes, who wore the garb of a slave, whose environments taught him that his color placed him in bondage; whose future, had he not hewn it out for himself, would have been cast in long days of unrequited toil; who saw dimly the light of liberty and being, like Samuel, called of God to speak for his race, faced prejudice and politics and made the way plain to that end that the curse was removed from the land,—to his memory the city of Rochester, regardless of color, uniting with the people of the state, are paying tribute to-day.

There was no reason, as men reason things, why Frederick Douglass should not have remained a slave all his life and died a slave, unknown, unsung, forgotten. Because he did not, because he climbed the Hill Difficulty and met and conquered every obstacle, we remember him to-day.

It is indeed the purest tribute of a grateful people when one who held no high civic place is remembered, as is Douglass. Republics are not always ungrateful, as monuments to heroism and worth the country over attest.

To-day in Rochester we renew our faith in the republic at the foot of the statue of a man born a slave. Again we declare that liberty shall be proclaimed throughout all the land "and unto the people thereof," as we speak of the struggles of the black man whose figure towers in metal at St. Paul street and Central avenue.

FROM THE ROCHESTER MORNING HERALD.

In Rochester yesterday was celebrated an event unique in the history of the American nation—the unveiling of a statue immortalizing in imperishable bronze the form and

features of a negro. It was not a celebration restricted to the representatives of the negro race, but an event gladly participated in by the entire population of the city, for Frederick Douglass belonged not to his race alone, but to the American people. He represented not only the highest achievement and development of his race, he was equally a type of superior manhood and representative citizenship. Frederick Douglass established a precedent, fulfilled an ideal, that should serve—will serve—as an inspiration to the negro race in America for all time to come.

Against the black scroll of race hatred and race prejudice, now happily fading from a clear national sky, this bronze statue of Frederick Douglass stands as a memorial in gold, a lasting tribute to a greatness of character and nobility of life that even the shackles of a slave could not bind down nor the black skin of a slave cloak from public view and recognition. By the sheer impetus of his own force of character, Frederick Douglass rose from a Southern slave pen to be the associate of presidents and the confrere of statesmen. The silver tongue of his oratory thrilled the ear of the English speaking world; and among the most potent agencies for the abolition of slavery must be included the voice and heart and brain and soul of Frederick Douglass.

No words can picture the boundless possibilities of influence of such a life upon the people Frederick Douglass represented. In that life the Afro-American will find never failing inspiration. If Frederick Douglass could accomplish what he did when he did, what may not the negro of to-day and to-morrow hope to attain? No goal is closed to him; no avenue of honorable endeavor is barred; he has at his disposal every legitimate means for his advancement as an individual, his betterment as a race. The future of the negro in America rests largely in his own hands. Beside him, at

once an inspiration and a benediction, stands the gigantic figure of Frederick Douglass, shedding the shining light of an illustrious example upon the future pathway of the race.

From the executive mansion in the capital, the Governor of the Empire State came to do honor to the name and memory of Frederick Douglass; in the parade were the veterans of the war waged to emancipate his race; the public schools turned out their miniature companies; the uniformed societies were represented; the business and traffic of an entire city were stopped while its citizens turned their steps toward the statue of Douglass. This was but the tribute of a day, however, the appropriate accompaniment of the ceremony of unveiling. In the years to come the real tribute of his race to the memory of Frederick Douglass will be found in their high standard of citizenship, their loyalty to the inspiring ideal he established, their progress along the lines of right living and honorable endeavor. And as their fellow citizens of another color marched with them side by side to the unveiling of the Douglass monument, so should they stand with them and stand by them in their every future effort to be worthy of their illustrious prototype, Frederick Douglass. As Rochester was honored by his life among us, so is she honored by his grave and by his monument, two visible memorials of a great man and an honorable life.

FROM THE ROCHESTER POST EXPRESS.

The 9th of June the monument to Frederick Douglass was unveiled. The city was thronged with visitors to witness the ceremony. Eloquent tributes to the memory of the great anti-slavery agitator were pronounced. But nothing was said or done that will give an adequate idea of the man or of the work that he did. Much less was anything said or done that gave an adequate idea of the age in which he lived and labored. It is only glimpses of him and of his times that can be had on such an occasion. Even if full knowl-

edge of both were available, time would be lacking to set it forth. But these glimpses will serve a useful purpose. They will suggest to the generation that has grown up since the anti-slavery agitation and the great struggle that followed it that their country has a history—has heroes worthy of their study and admiration.

It is not easy to overestimate the part that Douglass played in the abolition of slavery. At the time he first began to appear on the anti-slavery platform and to deliver his powerful phillipics against the curse of American civilization, it was by no means generally conceded that the negro was a human being. While it was admitted that he had a certain mental and moral capacity, he was regarded by most of the advocates of slavery only as a superior kind of animal. While he could laugh and talk, learn a trade and do some other things common to white people, he did not possess those higher traits that no animal ever exhibited. He did not have a soul; he could not reason; he felt none of the lofty emotions of the Caucasian. When, therefore, Douglass appeared before vast audiences, and thrilled them with an eloquence that rivaled the eloquence of Beecher and Phillips, he gave a blow to slavery from which it never recovered. He proved that the negro was something more than an animal, and that he was fitted to be something more than a slave; he was a human being, capable of all the emotions, thoughts, and achievements of any other human being.

It may be said, as it has often been said, that Douglass was not a pure blooded negro, and was not, therefore, a fair example of the capacity of his race. It has been claimed, and it is still claimed, that whatever genius he exhibited was due to the white blood that flowed in his veins. But the argument never counted for much. He did not have white blood enough to blanch his skin, or to convert his features into those of a Caucasian, or to deliver him from the

cruel lash of the slave driver the moment he became old and large enough to add to the wealth of his master. He was regarded as a negro. He was often subjected to the discriminations against his race. Even if it were to be admitted that his white blood was a priceless advantage, it is certain that his African blood did not prevent him from rising from the lowest depths of degradation and obscurity to a fame that filled the whole civilized world. Such a fact, immutable and unanswerable, swept away the mass of sophisms based upon the theory that the negro was not really a man—that he was destined by his creator to be a slave. It was more potent with doubting minds than all the logic and eloquence of the whole army of abolitionists.

But the work of Douglass was not confined to an illustration of the moral and intellectual capacities of his race. It included energetic, aggressive and tireless warfare on the institution that held his race in bondage. From the time he gained his freedom until every right enjoyed by a white man under the Constitution was guaranteed to the negro, he devoted his giant strength and splendid powers as an orator to its overthrow. The iron of slavery had pierced his own heart, and he knew no other duty night or day but its immediate and complete destruction. He could not rest as long as he knew that one man was the master of another and had over him the power of life or death. But the abolition of slavery did not content him. He felt that unless the blacks had the same rights of citizenship as the whites, their freedom could not be guaranteed. As soon as the war was over, he worked unceasingly to give them the ballot. But he knew that the ballot was not enough to insure them against oppression. He felt that they must be educated, and become the possessors of property. As soon as right of suffrage had been gained, he devoted himself to the work of fitting the emancipated race for the exercise of that right.

He encouraged all educational and industrial enterprises. At the time of his death, he had the satisfaction of seeing negroes enjoy educational advantages not inferior to those of whites. He saw them increase in wealth almost beyond the dreams of the most ardent friends of the race.

We have spoken of Douglass' ability and achievements. A word remains to be said about his character. Beset on every hand as he was for many years by the most pitiless enemies, they were never able to point to an act unworthy of an honest and pure-minded man. It was believed at one time that he was implicated with the treason of John Brown, and at the urgent solicitation of friends, he fled to England. But if he were guilty of complicity against the government of his country, it was no selfish motive that inspired him. His only aim was the deliverance of his country from an evil that he believed to be greater than an insurrection. Enemies have accused him of selfishness. But a man that could succor a victim of age and penury that had howled for his own life, or that could devote fifty years to the betterment of his own race and at the same time suffer all the obloquy attached to a despised cause, was hardly guilty of that infirmity. Although it may be said that he felt toward the South after the war as he did before the war, it should not be forgotten that his sufferings at the hands of the slave power were not likely to soften any heart. But after all just criticism has been made upon his attitude toward that section, it must be admitted that his work in behalf of humanity entitles him to the everlasting remembrance of every friend of freedom and of every enemy of wrong.

FROM THE ROCHESTER UNION AND ADVERTISER.

Several years ago prominent colored citizens of Rochester organized a movement for the erection of a monument to the memory of the colored soldiers who died in the war for the Union and invited co-operation by their white fellow

citizens, which was given, and initial steps had been taken for accomplishing the object when, on the 20th of February, 1895, Frederick Douglass died at Washington. This occurrence induced the committee to decide that a memorial to him would embody what they had designed, and at the same time pay broader tribute to the achievements of representative men of their race, and so the work went on to the end of the presentation made to-day in the unveiling of the Douglass statue in this city.

Back in the centuries, when England, Spain and Portugal, other countries contributing, and the American colonies themselves taking a hand as soon as they were able, planted the curse of African slavery on this continent, they little dreamt of the evolution that was to occur ere the dawn of 1900. At what period it is impossible to determine, but certain that at some time in the distant past the maternal ancestors of Frederick Douglass were taken from the wilds of Africa, either by stealth or purchase, and sold into slavery upon the Atlantic coast of this country. In 1817 there was born to a slave mother of this African descent upon the plantation of Colonel Edward Lloyd, in Talbot county, Maryland, on the east shore of Chesapeake Bay, and putatively to him, a son who took on the name of Lloyd, but subsequently changed it to Frederick Douglass. After escape from his master, purchase of his freedom with money contributed by friends in England, which country he had visited, and passing through the many vicissitudes incident to such a life as circumstances compelled him to follow and which embraced a fair self-education, Mr. Douglass made his advent in Rochester at the age of 30, in 1847, and established the "North Star," a weekly journal devoted to the abolition of slavery, of which he was editor. He was modest and unassuming in demeanor, was warmly received and substantially encouraged by many citizens, especially of the Quaker element, and was

MRS. R. JEROME JEFFREY.

respected by all. If he was bitter and severe, as he sometimes was, in handling the subject of slavery without gloves, the "Hardshells" and "Silver Greys" of the old political parties who were classed as pro-slavery sympathizers because upholding the Constitution and the laws enacted thereunder, took no exception. They said he had a right to be bitter and severe, and even unreasonable and unpatriotic, while they had no patience with his white associates of the Garrison school who, on the 2d day of February, 1859, in convention at the capital of this state, declared in a resolution written by William Lloyd Garrison, "that in advocating a dissolution of the Union the Abolitionists are justified by every precept of the Gospel, by every principle of morality, by every claim of humanity; that such a Union is a covenant with death, which ought to be annulled, and an agreement with hell which a just God cannot permit to stand; and that it is the imperative and paramount duty of all who would keep their souls from blood-guiltiness to deliver the oppressed out of the hands of the spoiler and usher in the day of Jubilee; to seek its immediate overthrow by all righteous instrumentalities." It was on the line of Garrisonian warfare that Mr. Douglass conducted his agitation against the institution of slavery, down to the eve of the slaveholders' rebellion when the publication of his paper ceased and he, although maintaining a nominal residence here, lived elsewhere, and after the war became a permanent citizen of Washington, where he was given a number of offices of honor and profit by the Republican administration, of which he had been a hearty supporter from the foundation of the Republican party and nomination of Fremont and Dayton at Philadelphia in June, 1856, on a platform that declared for prohibition by Congress in the territories of "these twin relics of barbarism—Polygamy and Slavery." Although when, in 1871, Mr. Douglass was given the Republican nomination

for member of Assembly from the district then composed of the city of Rochester, against George D. Lord, Democrat, his party constituency failed to support him as it should have done. The city was at that election Democratic by a bare majority—151 for the head of the state ticket, Willers, over Scribner, Rep.; but Lord's majority over Douglass was 1,186 —the aggregate vote of both parties in the city having been less than 10,000. The Assembly would have furnished a fine field for display of Mr. Douglass' oratorical powers, and test of his legislative abilities. It is, really, in sentiment, a tribute to the opportunities of evolution in American life, despite aparently insurmountable obstacles, that the Douglass statue stands before the public gaze, rather than a monument to an individuality, or to the achievement of some great object of local or general public concern. Mr. Douglass himself expressed the idea forcibly in a letter to his friend, and the friend of the lowly and oppressed everywhere, the late Samuel D. Porter, of this city, when he said: "It is not, however, the height to which I have risen, but the depth from which I have come, that amazes me." This idea is emphasized by the memorable reference of Chief Justice Taney of the Supreme Court of the United States, born in Calvert county, Maryland, on the oposite shore of Chesapeake Bay from Talbot county, in the Dred Scott case to the historical fact that "for more than a century previous to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence negroes, whether slave or free, had been regarded as beings of an inferior order and altogether unfit to associate with the white race, either in social or political relations, and so far inferior that they had no rights which the white man was bound to respect." And the Constitution itself, based upon the Declaration of Independence, provided for perpetuation of the slave trade with Africa for a period of twenty years after its adoption, and for the return of slaves escaping from their

owners in one state and seeking freedom in another. In all this there has been wonderful evolution, of which the statue of Frederick Douglass is the personification. And it is in such character that the statue is to be looked upon and considered, as imparting the lesson of Pope's lines:

"Honor and shame from no condition rise;
Act well your part, there all the honor lies."

CHAPTER XVI

HOW GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT WAS ENTERTAINED IN ROCHESTER.

After the exercises at the monument had been concluded, Governor Roosevelt, accompanied by Military Secretary G. C. Treadwell and Senator W. W. Armstrong, James S. Watson, L. P. Ross and E. S. Brown, members of the reception committee, visited the State Industrial School. Amid great cheering, the Governor and party arrived at 4:30 o'clock and remained at the school until 6 o'clock. The Governor many times expressed his admiration of the various departments, and was much interested in the way the school was conducted.

Eleven military companies, drawn up outside the entrance to the school, saluted the Governor, and as he alighted, he was greeted by ex-Judge Thomas Raines, Charles Van Voorhis, Dr. G. W Goler, Dr. C. H. Losey, Dr. George Carroll, Mrs. Emil Kuichling and Miss Aldridge, members of the board of managers of the school, Superintendent F. H. Briggs and the assistant superintendents and heads of departments.

Light refreshments were served beneath the trees in front of the woman's department. The luncheon was in charge of Miss M. E. Craig, matron of the institution, and was the handiwork of inmates of the department. The school band rendered pleasing music during the luncheon.

After the party had done ample justice to the repast, the Governor was conducted to the chapel. When he appeared he was greeted with tremendous cheers by the 750 boys and the 300 girl inmates. Under the leadership of the musical

directress, Miss E. V Sharp, the boys and girls sang "Anchored" with much enthusiasm.

In introducing Governor Roosevelt, ex-Judge Thomas Raines told the boys they might well derive inspiration from the life of the Governor, who, in war and peace, had made a record of which his countrymen were very proud.

Governor Roosevelt spoke, in part, as follows, to the assembled inmates:

"I was very much pleased with the way you conducted yourselves when I arrived. Your officers must have drilled you well, and you must have learned that the duty of the true soldier is to obey orders.

"I think when the time comes, you boys will make good husbands and fathers. And I sincerely hope you will not forget your duties to the state, and that you will use your influence to secure the election of good men to office.

"The discipline and order which you have been taught within these walls will be of much use to you in after years. Most of the great men in this world have become great because they did little things with precision and faithfulness. The men in my regiment who did brave fighting in Cuba were the men who never complained if they were told to wash dishes or do the other disagreeable things of camp life.

"I feel much pride when I look into your smiling faces, and have great hopes of your success in future years. All I ask of you is that you shall face the big world and that you will remember the many lessons you have learned here, and be an honor to the country of which you are citizens."

The exercises ended with the singing of the "Marseillaise Hymn" in a manner which called forth favorable comment from all present.

After the exercises, the Governor and the members of the reception committee visited the various departments of the institution. The directors pointed out the interesting fea-

tures of the institution, and Superintendent Briggs explained the workings of the institution in detail to the Governor.

The power house, laundry, carpenter shop and the clothing and shoe departments were first visited. The Governor appeared to be much interested in the caps turned out by the youths in charge of the clothing department.

The machine and printing shops were next visited. The Governor remarked that the boys who erected the building containing these departments had done much credit to themselves. After hurried visits to the pattern and blacksmith shops and the armory, the Governor visited the new building of the boys' department. He was much interested in the supper of the youngsters. He went about the dining room speaking kindly words to each of the boys.

He was next shown a company at drill, and talked to several of the individual members. As he was getting interested in the boys, a messenger brought word from Senator Armstrong that the Governor was several minutes behind time. On the way to his carriage, a large number of girls sitting on the lawn, greeted the Governor with cheers.

When the Governor arrived at the carriage, he expressed much surprise at the lateness of the hour, and reluctantly left the institution. During his visit the Governor walked about the grounds with a stride which surprised the fastest walkers in the party. At the buildings, however, he was frequently told he could not tarry longer for lack of time.

Amid cheers from the teachers and pupils of the institution the Governor waved his good-byes and took a last look at the school, apparently much pleased with his visit.

DINNER AT GENESEE VALLEY CLUB.

Dinner was served at the Genesee Valley Club at 6 o'clock. In the yellow room, at a round table, decorated with peonies of yellow and white, the club colors, were seat-

ed the guest of honor and his entertainers. On the right of Governor Roosevelt was seated Senator Armstrong and next to him James S. Watson. H. G. Danforth was seated at the Governor's left and Military Secretary Treadwell occupied the seat next to Mr. Danforth. The others at the table were L. P. Ross and Edward S. Brown. Though of the best and elegantly served, the dinner was a very simple affair and there was no accompanying music.

Those of the party who had never met the Governor before described him as a very entertaining talker and expressed themselves as delighted with his recitals of his Cuban experiences, which occupied the greater part of the dinner hour. It was a little after 7 o'clock when, the dinner being over, the party entered carriages and were driven to the Court House for the public reception.

RECEPTION AT THE COURT HOUSE.

Monroe county's million dollar marble Court House proved an ideal place for holding such a reception. Festooned in the central rotunda, near the dome, and standing out from the marbles and brasses along the galleries, were draperies of the national colors and at intervals flags at full length relieved by beautiful palms in abundance. Brilliant with many lights, the elegant bronze candelabra, halls and open court presented a dazzling scene.

On the right and just past the staircase, inclosed with velvet ropes, stretched between the two great marble pillars, was a platform raised about a foot above the floor. On this and with the coat of arms of the Empire State emblazoned on a banner above, the Chief Executive of the commonwealth stood for nearly an hour giving hearty handclasps to the citizens of the Flower City. Rich and poor, young and old, black and white received the same cordial grasp of the hand and the same friendly smile.

All day long the decorators, Bickford Brothers, were at work in the Court House, and Charles U. Bastable of the general reception committee was at all times present to oversee and direct the work. The plan to hold the reception in the Court House originated with Mr. Bastable and its unqualified success proved the value of the suggestion and the necessary executive ability to carry it out. Maurice Moll's orchestra of fifteen pieces discoursed music from the gallery on the second floor during the progress of the reception.

Seven o'clock had been announced as the hour for the opening of the reception, but it was half an hour later before the Governor and his party arrived. Nevertheless all who were assigned to duty were promptly on hand. Lieutenant Russ with twelve of the handsomest men on the police force arrived early. New York's Broadway squad in its palmiest days never presented twelve finer looking men than Officers Stein, Heinlein, Tindell, William O'Connor, Eugene Sullivan, Saunders, Sharp, Pearson, Decker, Schmucker, George Sullivan and John Lane; every man of them over six feet tall. Two of the Protective police, Officers Simson and Smith, in their gray uniforms, were stationed at the stairways and took tickets from those were were admitted to the upper galleries.

LOCAL MILITARY STAFF.

"Marching Through Georgia" was played by the Fifty-fourth Regiment Band, which escorted the special staff of local militia officers assigned to duty on the platform with the distinguished guest. They were Captain H. B. Henderson, Captain F. G. Smith, First Lieutenant F. W Bailey, First Lieutenant A. F. Smith, Junior Lieutenant F. M. Enos and Second Lieutenant F. T. Eigabroadt. In their elegant full dress uiforms they added a military halo to the scene.

Then arrived in full dress Chief of Police Cleary, Captains McDermott and Baird and Lieutenants Zimmerman,

Sherman, Stetson, Schwartz and Ryan, and a moment later the Eighth Separate Company, Lieutenant E. N. Walbridge commanding, marched into the building.

Fifty members of the Eighth New York Cavalry, veterans of the Civil War, under General William H. Benjamin, after their annual reunion at Irondequoit Bay, marched to Powers Hotel to tender their services as escort to the Governor and his party to the Union League Club.

RECEPTION AT THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB.

As soon as the reception was ended at the Court House the party was driven directly to the Union League Club wigwam, on Grand street, where the members tendered a rousing reception. The drive was a lively one, for all along the streets approaching the wigwam there were red lights, fireworks and the firing of guns. The street in front of the club's headquarters was filled with people, and they cheered lustily as the Governor's carriage appeared, headed by the drill corps of the club, who had marched down South avenue to meet the party.

The wigwam was handsomely decorated with flags and bunting, and the platform was arranged as an alcove, handsomely festooned with flags. On the rostrum were Assemblyman A. J. Rodenbeck, Hon. John Van Voorhis, Treasurer Hamilton, Postmaster Graham, Charles J. Brown and others.

WELCOMED IN POETRY.

J. Frank Wilber welcomed the guests and the Governor, and said that the club had never been sorry for the loyal support it had given to the honored guest of the evening last fall. He introduced D. L. Ainsworth, who welcomed the Governor with the following poem:

Soldier boys and civilians too
Extend their thanks for this interview.
It carries us back to ninety-eight
When your valor honored the Empire State.
We saw you leading with courage and skill,
Cowboys and clerks up San Juan hill—
We saw you again at later date
Stumping for justice the Empire State.

You conquered the Dons and the Tammany Scouts,
And American manhood won both bouts.
With Justice the watchword in each strife
You battled each time for a better life.
Alive and alert you have not slept,
But your every promise faithfully kept.
Whether in field or halls of state,
Your service was worthy to emulate.

A classic man you have put aside caste
And merit deferred from first to last.
Labor and capital, rich and poor,
Enter alike at Roosevelt's door.
Whether as Governor, civilian or scout,
You have worked your way from the inside out.
Inspired by justice to do the best
Your every action has stood the test.

The Union League grateful and true
Ardently, earnestly welcomes you.
Welcome the man who gave his youth
In defense of freedom, justice and truth.
Welcome the man of common clay
Whose deeds have earned him the right of way.
Comrade, brother, patriot true,
We honor, admire and welcome you.

WELCOMED IN PROSE.

The poem of welcome was followed by a speech by C. A. Simmons, the captain of the drill corps. He said:

Mr. President: I am called upon to perform an exceptionally agreeable task to-night. The Union League Club has been greatly honored by the presence as its guest of that idol of the people of the State of New York and the hero of this broad land of ours—that man of men—Hon. Theodore Roosevelt.

In a time of the country's need that gentleman resigned his position as an executive officer of the United States and recruited that famous body of men—that fearless, awe-inspiring, zealously patriotic regiment of fighters—the Rough Riders. Called upon to finally assume full control of the destinies of that command he responded in a manner which history will still repeat when all that lingers of the present generation is but a memory.

It is not fitting that I should here more than merely mention that famous charge of San Juan hill, the land battle which more than any other in the late war served to place the nation on a plane higher than it had ever before attained.

Last fall this club stood heart and vote for Theodore Roosevelt and not a solitary member has just cause for regret. Proudly conscious of the great trust the sovereign people reposed in his manhood and his integrity, he has borne himself such that they have come to realize a glowing fulfillment of their innermost desires—an honest, patriotic executive.

On yonder wall, fondly wrapped in the flowing folds of the American flag, that emblem for which he fought so nobly and so well, and that of freed Cuba, in whose late history he played so conspicuous and remarkable a part, hangs a picture of a man whom the members of this club and the people of this city, this state and this country love to honor —Colonel Theodore Roosevelt.

That picture was painted by Captain Russell, a veteran of the Civil War and a member of this club, and is to hang in the meeting room of this organization a mute but a glowing testimonial of the fidelity of the man and the devotion of the club. It is the earnest and sincere wish of the members of the Union League Club that time may still further heap bountiful honors on the name and the fame of our distinguished guest.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

President Wilber accepted the picture in behalf of the club and introduced Governor Roosevelt, who said in part:

"I very deeply appreciate the honor you have conferred upon me, and the thoughtfulness you have shown in presenting this club with my picture, painted by a soldier of the great war, one who fought years where we fought months. You can hardly appreciate the way I am affected by the spirit you have shown in receiving me. I think you know I generally say what I mean and mean what I say. I assert that no political honor could compensate for this spirit of devotion on your part.

"I think every man should be honored for what he accomplishes as a man, and for the fidelity he displays in keeping the promises he has made. No single promise I made or implied, but I have tried to the best of my ability to keep. I will make mistakes, we all make them, but they will be mistakes made trying to serve my party by trying to make it stand for the safety and progress of the commonwealth.

"Fundamentally a man must create his own happiness and welfare, but the state can do something to help him in receiving the rights and liberties which we all inherit. It can equalize the burdens he must bear, and make the difficulties of government as light as possible. In matters of taxation and labor I have done the best I could to make my office one

in which all men are treated equal, showing no favor to race, origin or creed.

"I appreciate the honor you have shown me, and shall endeavor to so conduct myself in the year and a half which remains to me in office that I shall have a free conscience when I front you again—for after all a man must be true to his own ideals. Therein lies the best test of honest government. I again thank you for the honor you have conferred upon me in hanging my picture in your club rooms and in giving me this splendid reception."

DOUGLASS DAY.

With flags flying from every masthead; amid the acclaim of the largest concourse of people in many years; a parade that included nearly all the military and civic organizations of the city; with exercises in which the Governor of the Empire State participated; with the booming of cannon and the cheering of the populace; the statue was unveiled that had been erected to the memory of the foremost colored statesman known to modern history, the most conspicuous historic figure ever seen in Rochester.

Frederick Douglass has always held a warm place in the memory of Rochester. During many of the most active years of his life, when he was fighting his hardest battles for the freedom of his race, when he was winning the great fame that gave him the high place he holds in history, he was a resident of this city. Here he had a wide circle of friends and was known to most of the older inhabitants of the city. Although in the later years of his life he lived in Washington, it was his dying wish that Rochester be his final resting place. Here his body was brought four years ago and here in the beautiful Mt. Hope cemetery his remains will repose forever.

It was most fitting that the statue to the memory of Douglass should be erected in the city of his adoption; that Roch-

ester should be the place for his public monument. In paying this tribute to the memory of a distinguished citizen the city honored itself.

June 9th was a gala day in Rochester. The people turned out in such throngs as to crowd every available inch of space within 300 feet of the monument, standing for hours during the unveiling ceremonies. They thronged the Central station when Governor Roosevelt arrived and they lined up all along the streets through which the parade passed.

The programme began at 2:20 o'clock in the afternoon, when the Governor reached the city, and did not end until late in the evening, when the various entertainments that had been arranged in his honor were concluded. The features of the day were the big parade that passed through the main streets of the city, the exercises connected with the unveiling of the monument on the square at the junction of Central avenue and St. Paul street, the public reception at the Court House, and the entertainments at the Union League Club and at Fitzhugh Hall.

While there was homage paid to the memory of the dead statesman, there was mingled a tribute of respect to the Governor of the state, who played a conspicuous part in the ceremonies of the day. Governor Roosevelt came to Rochester in an official capacity, as the head of the state government. As such he was welcomed by the municipality; the guest of the city. There was nothing, of course, that savored of partisanship or politics in this visit of His Excellency to Rochester. Democrats vied with Republicans in showing him respect and in helping to entertain him.

CHAPTER XVII.

COMMENT ON DOUGLASS' LIFE BY THE AMERICAN PRESS.

He figured in a revolutionary time and will be set down in history as one of the most notable men of a fiery epoch.—Elmira Gazette.

He lived in the stormiest epoch of our national existence and in his person typified the woes and oppressions of the black race.—Albany Journal.

He was an eloquent speaker, a good debater, a man of business ideas, a devoted friend of his race and one of its most honored and most worthy representatives.—Syracuse Post.

Certainly his was the school of adversity, and that he triumphed over obstacles such as would cause the bravest to turn back shows the unshrinking courage of the man.—Troy Times.

The struggles of his life were many and hard, but by force of character he surmounted them all and became by all odds the most conspicuous negro America has ever known.—Utica Observer.

As orator, editor and patriot he has left an impress upon history which will be ineffaceable. What a commentary is the career of Frederick Douglass upon the institution of slavery!—New York Advertiser.

If a list were to be made of the Americans who have done the greatest service to large numbers of their fellow citizens, the name of Frederick Douglass would have a high place upon it.—Buffalo Express.

Born a negro slave, he won freedom, distinction and widespread influence by his own efforts and his own abilities. Author, orator, statesman and leader of his race, he achieved a position and wielded an influence to which few men can aspire.—New York World.

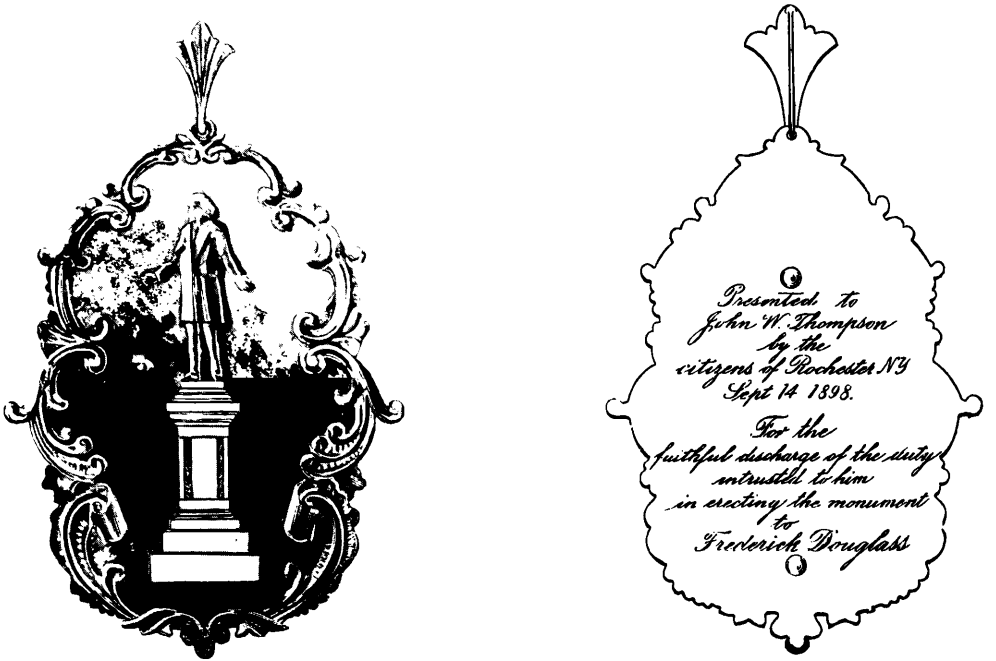
There are many distinguished and honored citizens of African lineage in the United States, but not one of them, not all of them, has done so much to advance the interests of this important element in American citizenship as the great man who died suddenly February 20, 1895, in Washington—Brooklyn Times.

The slave-born Fred. Douglass had a great career. He became the most commanding member of his race on this continent. Emancipation has so far failed to evolve a rival. His brethren may well mourn to-day. They have lost a sturdy friend, one who honored his kind Peace to his ashes! —Troy Press.

To the last Mr. Douglass showed a keen interest in the welfare of the colored people South as well as North. But he was by no means a man of one idea. His sympathy with the general progressive movements of the time was often made manifest. His presence will be missed in many a circle.—Boston Globe.

To New England, and particularly to Massachusetts, he was looked upon almost as an adopted son, for it was in the Old Bay state that his first words as a defender of his race were spoken, and during the anti-slavery agitation he was a prominent and welcome figure at many of the public meetings held in this section to protest against the bondage of his race.—Rochester Herald.

Frederick Douglass is not much more than a name to the present generation, but in the period of anti-slavery agitation the negro orator who had escaped from slavery was a conspicuous figure. He had a natural gift of eloquence that



BADGE PRESENTED TO J. W. THOMPSON.

had been well cultivated, and that, with a picturesque appearance and considerable earnestness, enabled him to plead for his race with uncommon force.—Philadelphia Times.

No one could start in life in more forbidding and discouraging circumstances than the boy who was destined to become celebrated on two continents as Frederick Douglass, the anti-slavery orator. His denunciations of slavery had not only the force of conviction, but the irresistible quality derived from personal experience. American annals furnish no more captivating illustration of a self-made man.—New York Tribune.

Mr. Douglass was one of the closest and most cogent debaters of the slavery question, and a most earnest and convincing advocate. On several occasions, in Syracuse, he was threatened with mob violence, once or twice was rotten-egged by slavery apologists and negro-haters; but he invariably preserved his temper, and was never provoked to diversion from the discussion of principle to personal controversy.—Syracuse Journal.

Mr. Douglass was a symmetrical character, free from the hatred and bitterness manifested by many of the early abolitionists, strong in argument and eloquent in speech. The people trusted him from the first, and those who were not unfriendly to slavery would listen to him when they would not listen to white men expressing the same sentiments. His good sense, tact and judgment made his aggressiveness seem to many a sort of pathetic earnestness, and he won the respect even of those who insisted on calling themselves his enemies.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

The lesson of Douglass' life is that of self trust and energetic action. He was a grand illustration of what a man may do for himself, his people and his country. With everything against him he conquered a place for himself where he was looked up to, even by his former enemies. He was not

a weak pleader or petitioner, but a man of iniative. It was not because he advanced the interests of the negro that men will honor his memory to-day, but because, by advancing the interst of the negro he raised the level of all manhood and made the whole world better by living in it.—Brooklyn Eagle.

A few years ago Frederick Douglass remarked to a friend that he had often thought of spending his remaining days in England because everywhere in the United States he was constantly reminded of the prejudice against his race.—Buffalo Courier.

His inspiration was in his experience, and his impassioned denunciation of the system from which he had been freed carried with it a convincing force against which the cooler expounders of the law could make little headway with those who felt rather than thought of the legal restraints imposed upon them. The great representative of his race was not always within the pale of the law, but he was always in deadly earnest and always sincere.—Detroit Free Press.

For more than half a century Mr. Douglass was a distinguished leader of his race by virtue of his intellectual gifts and marked oratorical powers. In recent years he had figured less prominently in the field of national discussion, but his career, which began in slavery, was full of ripe honors in the later years—civil, diplomatic and literary—and furnishes a lustrous demonstration of the possibilities that unfold before character and worth in this republican land without regard to the tint of a man's complexion.—Philadelphia Record.

A good many years ago he was on a lecture tour in a Northern state where the railroad companies provided separate ("Jim Crow") cars for negroes, as is still the custom, we hear, in some parts of the Union, and required the negroes to ride in them if they rode at all. The rule was im-

perative. Nevertheless Douglass, by way of protest, calmly took a seat in one of the cars reserved for white folks. A friendly conductor came along. He recognized his distinguished looking and already famous passenger at a glance, and he was very reluctant to disturb him. "Indian?" he inquired, with a wink and smile. "No, nigger," said Frederick Douglass. There was character in the answer. The man who made it would not obtain personal consideration and comfort at the price of a denial of his race and blood.—Hartford Courant.

Frederick Douglass was the peculiar product of peculiar conditions, and there was an element of romance in his life of vicissitude which kept him clearly in the public eye long after his real work was done. He would hardly have attained to so prominent a position as he did in the abolitionist movement had he been forced to rely solely on his personal qualities; it was the fact of his origin and his bitter experience in bondage that mainly won him attention and made him a helpful force in those days. Not that he was lacking in strong qualities of his own; he was a man of a degree of intelligence that would put to shame many whose antecedents and early opportunities were vastly better than his, and he had an oratorical ability of no mean order. But he did not find in later life any work to which he could apply himself quite so successfully as in earlier years to the liberation of his fellow slaves, and there was no topic on which he could think so clearly and talk so effectively as the wrongs of that bondage which he himself had suffered. It was given to him to perform a prominent and useful part in the toilsome work of arousing the public.—Providence Journal.

CHAPTER XVIII.

HOW THE NATIONAL AFRO-AMERICAN COUNCIL WAS FORMED.

August 23, 1898.

Mr. John W. Thompson, Rochester, N. Y.:

Esteemed Friend: I am in receipt of your communication of the 16th instant. It found me in moderate health. Accept my congratulations on your great success; you have immortalized yourself by this wonderful achievement. Long may you live to perform such deeds in the interest of your race. You may expect my presence on the 14th of September. I shall issue an order at once to the brethren to send in their subscriptions to me. Rest assured I will leave no stone unturned to collect every dollar subscribed. I had a conference with Friend Fortune, Durham and others about calling the proposed meeting at Rochester at the time of the unveiling. Fortune has agreed to make a call for a conference of the leaders throughout the country, to meet at Rochester about that time; he does not care to have a great meeting of the rabble, but simply twenty-five or fifty of the leaders of the race. I think this will add to the occasion. He informed me that you had requested him to call a meeting there. Watch the "Age" of next week and see what his decision will be (his final decision). If a call is made, notify me at once, at the general postoffice, Detroit, Mich., as I will be there the first week in September. I will notify the pastor at Rochester, so he can assist you in making preparations for the convention. You can depend upon me for any aid or encouragement necessary. Yours very truly,

A. WALTERS.

This book would not be complete without giving the facts connected with the formation of the Afro-American Council in Rochester, September 15, 1898, at the request of many leading Afro-American citizens from all over the country.

T. Thomas Fortune, president of the Afro-American League, called a conference of the leaders of the race and selected Rochester as the place of meeting, on account of the unveiling of the Douglass monument, which was to have taken place at Rochester, N. Y., September 14, 1898.

In the following letter to Bishop A. Walters, President Fortune selected that city as the place of meeting:

To Bishop A. Walters, Jersey City, N. J.:

My Dear Sir: On the 10th of March last you did me the honor to suggest that I issue, as president, a call for the resurrection and rehabilitation of the Afro-American League, which was organized at Chicago, January 15, 1890, the second and last annual meeting of which was held at Knoxville, Tenn., in 1892. Since the first publication of your request in "The Age," March 10th last, numerous persons, to the number of one hundred and fifty, have joined in the request, and their names have been published from time to time, attached to your request, and have therefore become a part of it, attaching national importance to the desire for some organized expression of Afro-American opinion of the conditions which confront the race, and which differ but little from those stated by me in 1890, as a sufficient provocation for calling the Afro-American League at Chicago.

I have given your request long and faithful consideration, and have reached the conclusion that the popular sentiment behind the request does not justify me in acceding to it. There is just as much need of the Afro-American League today as there was in 1890; there is even more need for such an organization; but I do not believe that the masses of the

race are any more ready and willing to organize local and state leagues of the National League and to sustain them by moral and financial support than they were in 1890 and 1892. I am therefore not willing to take the responsibility of undertaking the resurrection of the Afro-American League when the chances of effecting a permanent organization are so very doubtful.

But, in deference to the desire of yourself and the persons who have joined you in the request, and after consultation with responsible men and women in all parts of the country, who feel with me that something of an organized nature should be done to stem the tide of wrong and injustice of which the race is made the victims, I have decided to call a conference at Rochester, N. Y., September 15, 1898, to consider existing conditions and to take such action as may be wise, loyal and patriotic for the future, the conference to be composed of those who have joined in the request for the resurrection of the Afro-American League, and who shall determine upon the admission of such others as may appear at Rochester and desire to participate in the work of the conference.

My excuse for calling the conference at Rochester is to take advantage of the race sentiment which will be invoked by the unveiling of a monument to Frederick Douglass, in Rochester, September 14th, a city in which Mr. Douglass spent some of the best and happiest and most fruitful years of his life, and one of the freest and most tolerant cities in the republic, whose hotels and homes and press will receive the conferees with open arms and generous hospitality.

Persons desiring to attend the conference should write to Mr. John W Thompson, P. O. Box 493, Rochester, N. Y., for railroad rates and hotel accommodations.

Invoking the Divine blessing on the proposed conference, and thanking you, Bishop Walters and your co-signers, for

the honor you have done me in your request, I am, with sentiments of high regard, yours truly,

T. THOMAS FORTUNE.

September 15th, at 10:45 o'clock promptly, Mr. T. Thomas Fortune opened the meeting and called upon Rev. Mr. Bowens, of Troy, to pronounce an invocation. J. W. Thompson introduced Mayor Warner in the following words:

"I am pleased to welcome you to this important conference. Many of you are strangers here. I take great pleasure in introducing to you Mayor George E. Warner, who will make you welcome to our city."

Hon. George E. Warner said:

"Should any one assert to-day that the colored people are not capable of becoming good citizens and enjoying the liberties a short time ago presented to them, you may answer by referring him to the words uttered in Fitzhugh Hall yesterday, to the monument then dedicated, and to the life of Frederick Douglass. Not the least good done by that great man for his race was his demonstration of his ability to prosper under good laws.

"It is to be hoped that the time may soon arrive when the colored people will be able to cease their battle against race prejudice and concentrate all their efforts for the full development of all the abilities of the race. The events of recent years show that time is the main element required to make a good citizen of every colored man in the country. Steady improvement has been made in recent years in the condition of the colored people of this country, due largely to the increased educational facilities furnished throughout the United States, the records showing that there has been a steady increase in the number of colored people attending our schools and colleges.

"Not only in the arts of peace but in those of war also, the colored citizen has proven his worth. It was true Amer-

ican honesty which gave the colored troops before Santiago their full share of the glory. There is not a citizen of the country who is not proud of their record.

"It gives me pleasure to welcome you to our city. We feel honored by your selecting our city as the place for your conference. There are thousands of your race all over the Union who grace every profession and calling, and I am sure that a body of men more capable of dealing with questions of public importance it would be difficult to find.

"We have in this city a large number of colored inhabitants, whom we esteem as worthy citizens. Our city was friendly to the colored race in days when that friendship was criminal, and she is friendly still.

"I trust that your deliberations here will be profitable, and result in increased benefit to the people you represent."

C. J. Perry, of the Philadelphia "Tribune," said: "There is no city I have visited where I have noted the spirit of patriotism to so great a degree. We have been charmed by your commercial prosperity and the dignity of your citizens. We expected to find these things. Rochester's name and fame have gone out because of her business and literary advancements. Believe us, sir, when we say that we know full well something of the spirit of freedom prevailing here, the seed of which was sown by those some of whom are sitting here to-day. How proud we are to know that the people of this city do whatever they can to diffuse the spirit of generosity over the land.

"It was because of this generous spirit, the president of the league selected Rochester as the new starting place for the league. Fortunately for your city, sir, you are not satisfied to rest upon glories of the past. Yesterday's dedication added only one more link in the chain of memories which have made your city great, grand and glorious. We appreciate your words of welcome."

Mr. Fortune then said: "As I am responsible for the calling of this conference, it is fitting that I should say something of the object of the meeting. It was a long time before I decided to call the meeting. I do not think I shall have anything further to do with an organization organized for the benefit of the people in general unless the women are given a voice in its affairs."

Miss Anthony interrupted: "I wish you could get a white man to say that."

"They will have to say it ere long, Miss Anthony," replied Mr. Fortune.

"I have had my experience in trying to create an organization out of an incongruous mass. And I stand here to-day and say that I do not think the great mass of the colored people of this country is prepared for a national organization. Just as the Irish people were not prepared for organization when it was attempted.

"The poverty and ignorance of our people is against the plan for they have had but thirty years in which to recover from 250 years of bondage. We may not be able at once to control the mass, but if we as individuals can get together and devise a plan we may move the masses. Our attendance here to-day is affected by the fact that the monument exercises were postponed and then again taken up.

"The race as a whole is not in condition yet to combat the prejudice against the race, but Bishop A. Walters, Collector J. C. Dancy and others here think that even a handful can sow the seed. I am almost persuaded that we cannot accomplish our object any more than we could the abolition of slavery unless the white men and the black men, the white women and the black women, join the movement.

"Three states, South Carolina, Mississippi and Louisiana, have disfranchised us as entirely as we were before the war. Alabama is to do the same thing. Where it is not done by

constitutional enactment, it is done by scheme and fraud. One half of the electoral vote of the South is disfranchised.

"The Southern sentiment that has been carried into the new possessions will result in a revolution in ten years, unless care is taken. If you rule the black and yellow people in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines as the South has been and is being ruled, you will have revolution upon revolution and you ought to have it.

"If you expect to lift up the South by putting only the white men forward, you are going to have trouble right along. You have made 26,000 black teachers in the South and have taught our people freedom, but in the South the people are teaching out of text books fifty years old. You cannot put the two classes together without a clash. Mob law prevails in the South, and mob law leads to revolution. You are sure to have it. It is the result of injustice.

"Take the separate car law. I ride in a Pullman car when I want to. If I had my way I would build a monument to George M. Pullman so high you could not see the top of it. If I ever had any trouble in securing a seat in a Pullman car, all I needed to do was to telegraph headquarters and my seat was ready at the next station and the conductor who first refused me lost his job. Mr. Pullman died too soon.

"Now on the home question. I am opposed to having different marriage and divorce laws in the several states. While this is the case we have no high standard of morality."

Taking up the subject of the Scotch woman who was recently detained by the immigration commissioners at New York because she came to America to marry a black man, Mr. Fortune said he demanded to know the facts and through his persistent efforts the woman was released and was married to the black man.

"Revise your laws regarding the intermarriage of the

races," continued Mr. Fortune, "if you wish to conduce to morality. If a white woman falls in love with a black man and they are not allowed to marry they will live together illegally. The trouble is in your laws. Go South and you will see the yellow color of the people. The black man did not make the yellow color. Whose fault is it? Twenty-four states in this union have laws prohibiting the intermarriage of the races. These laws should be wiped out. Surely we have sufficient provocation to have an association for the uplifting of the race."

Upon the motion of Bishop Walters, Mr. T. T. Fortune was made temporary chairman. Mrs. Ida B. Wells Barnett was made secretary. Upon motion of Mr. J. C. Dancy a committee of three was appointed to ascertain the composition of the conference. This committee consisted of Messrs. Dancy and Walters and Mrs. R. J. Jeffrey. The matter was quickly settled by asking all who wished to participate in the conference to come within the railing, there being no restriction as to color or sex.

Miss Susan B. Anthony made interesting remarks in behalf of the colored people. As she stepped to the platform where President Ward is accustomed to view the deliberations of the Common Council, she said:

"I would like to stand at this side of the desk but I cannot for here is a large spittoon; and there on the other side is another. I wonder if when the black man is elected to represent his ward in the august assemblage of the city legislature, he will need a washtub at the side of his desk?"

The chairman appointed the following committees:

Organization—Bishop A. Walters, Charles R. Douglass, John W. Thompson, Mrs. R. J. Jeffrey, Rev. W. E. Bowen.

Resolutions—John C. Dancy, Mrs. Rosita D. Sprague, C. J. Perry, Mrs. Ida Wells Barnett, F. S. Cunningham.

At the afternoon session the committee on permanent or-

ganization made its report, which was adopted and Mr. T. Thomas Fortune, of New York, was elected president; John C. Dancy, North Carolina, vice-president; Mrs. Ida B. W. Barnett, Chicago, Ill., secretary; John W. Thompson, N. Y., treasurer.

For some reason Mr. Fortune resigned as president, and Bishop Alexander Walters was elected president, to succeed Mr. Fortune, who was afterwards elected chairman of the executive committee, which consisted of these members: J. C. Dancy, Mrs. Ida B. W. Barnett, B. W. Arnett, J. W Parker, C. J. Perry, H. T. Keating and Bishop A. Walters, ex-officio.

Prominent among those present were Mrs. Helen Douglass, widow of the late Frederick Douglass, Mrs. Emily Howard, Mrs. Sarah C. Blackall, Mrs. L. C. Smith, Washington, D. C., and Rev. Joseph Dixon, Buffalo, N. Y.

Mrs. Frederick Douglass addressed the newly organized Afro-American Council, taking for her subject the Frederick Douglass Memorial Home.

The conference reassembled at 2 P. M., and was called to order by Chairman Fortune.

John H. Smythe, of Richmond, Va., addressed the chair and said he could not become a member if the conference opposed separate schools and favored mixed marriages. He asked the chair to rule on his status. Mr. Fortune declared that if Mr. Smythe favored separate schools and marriages he could not be a member. The matter was put to a vote and the chair was not sustained, whereupon Mr. Fortune left the chair. The question was reconsidered, the chair's decision was upheld and Mr. Smythe left the meeting.

THE END.