



THE EIGHTH REGIMENT ARMORY



## COLORED CHICAGO\*



**I**T is said that the first cabin in the present confines of Chicago was built by a San Domingan Negro in 1779. To-day there are 50,000 persons of Negro descent in this city of two and one-half millions.

Chicago has usually treated its colored citizens more liberally than most large American cities. The Ordinance of 1787 drove slavery from this territory and fugitive slaves found refuge here in many cases. It was not until 1873, however, that colored children were admitted to the public schools.

Like all the larger American cities Chicago's Negro population has an immigrant character and consequently is at any given period rather sharply divided in an older class of well established citizens and a large mass of more or less unassimilated new comers. In the case of white immigrants the first of these two classes merge with the larger community and cease to figure as "hyphenated" Americans. Color prejudice in the case of persons of Negro descent class all these citizens in one group, visit criticism and discrimination upon



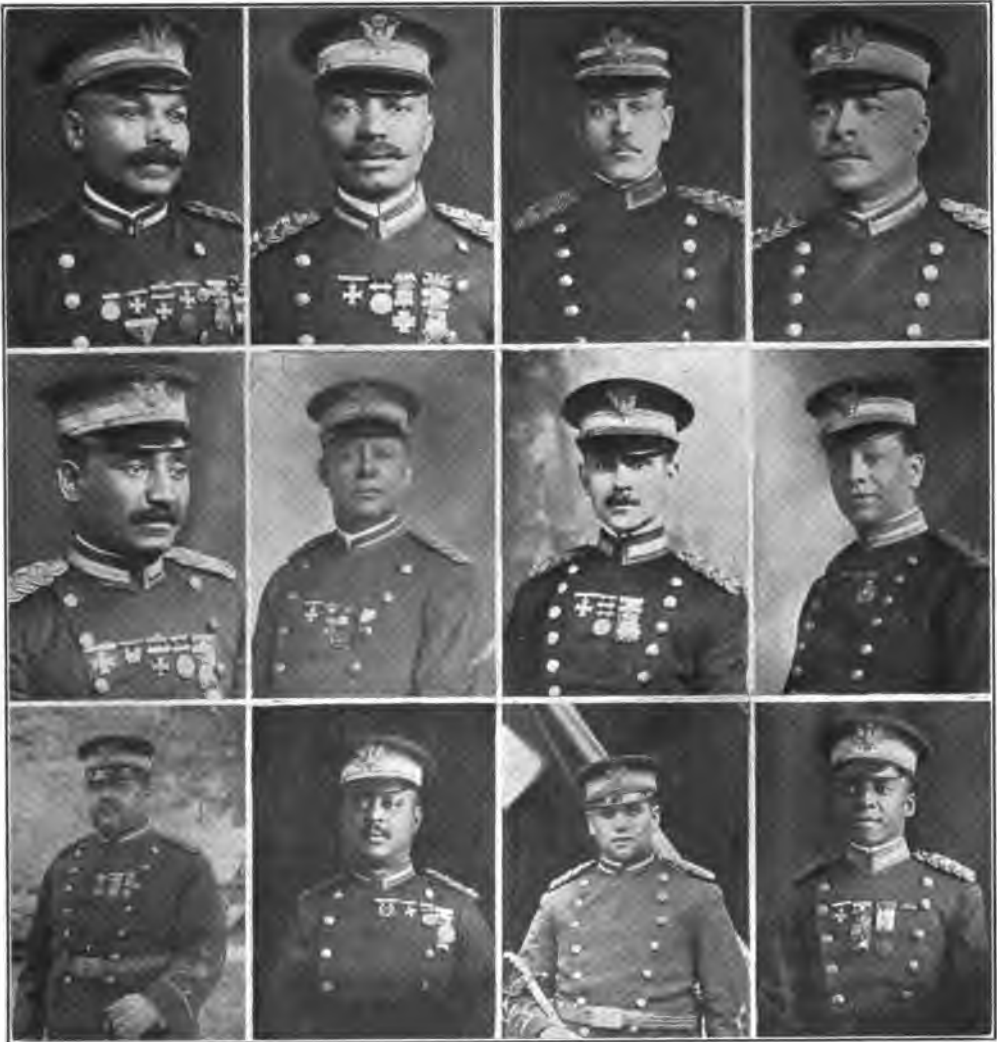
MAJOR O. B. DUNCAN

MAJOR J. R. JACKSON

MAJOR A. A. WESLEY

\*References: Harris: Negro Servitude in Illinois; The Colored People of Chicago by L. D. Bowen;

Negro Crime in Chicago by M. N. Work; U. S. Census, 1900, 1910.



**CAPTAINS OF THE REGIMENT**

- 1. Hill
- 5. Arnett
- 9. Nelson

- 2. Pinkney
- 6. Jefferson
- 10. Holmes

- 3. White
- 7. Stokes
- 11. Byrd

- 4. Fry
- 8. Anderson
- 12. Smith

them all alike and makes intelligent study or judgment of them extremely difficult.

Earning a living is naturally the first problem of these 50,000 folks. In 1910 out of 18,437 colored men over fifteen years of age in gainful occupations there were 2,500 general laborers, 3,828 railway porters, 3,136 servants and waiters, 1,358 janitors, 443 bartenders and elevator men and 1,841 artisans including 319 barbers, 119 butchers, 92 carpenters, 67 stationery engineers, 116 stationery firemen, 95 machinists, 246 helpers in building and hand trades, 198

painters, 90 plasterers, 67 masons, 46 electricians, etc.

Among the other 8,000 men there were in transportation, 220 chauffeurs, 566 draymen, 149 longshoremen, 266 deliverymen, 535 porters in stores and 131 messenger boys.

In professional service there were 619: 78 actors, 15 artists, 76 clergymen, 14 dentists, 10 editors and reporters 44 lawyers, 216 musicians, 16 photographers, 109 physicians, 30 showmen and 11 school teachers.

In business there were 93 manufac-



LT. COL. JAMES A. JOHNSON

urers, 24 proprietors of transfer companies, 5 wholesale dealers, 23 undertakers, 218 retail dealers and 771 clerks, salesmen, stenographers, etc.

In the civil service there were 54 policemen and detectives which have since increased to over 80. There were 20 United States, state and city officials and 87 watchmen and firemen.

Colored women in Chicago were in gainful occupations in 1910 as follows: 3,653 as servants and waitresses, 2,229 as washerwomen, 939 as dressmakers and milliners, 316 as hairdressers and manicurists, 458 as boarding housekeepers, stewardesses, etc. Beside these there were 29 women retail dealers, 54 actresses, 136 musicians, 53 school teachers, 42 trained nurses, 53 stenographers and 145 clerks, book-keepers, etc. A later compilation in 1913 shows 292 colored men employed by the City of Chicago and 755 by the Federal Government including a large number of post office clerks and carriers.

Colored Chicago suffers from high rent and difficulty in buying houses in good residence districts. The increase, however, in home owning during the last twenty years has been phenomenal

although no exact statistics are available. There are thirty or more colored churches in the city, a fine hospital, the Provident, four social settlements working chiefly among colored people and the Young Men's Christian Association with a building which cost \$195,000 and a membership of 2,000. There is an Old Folks' Home, a Home for Colored Working Girls, a League of Colored Women's Clubs, the Amanda Smith Industrial Home and a large number of social clubs like the Appomatox. Out of the mass of colored folk in Chicago have risen numbers of distinguished people who have made their mark in city life and even in the life of the nation quite independent of their race or color. As compared with other cities colored Chicago is noted for its push and independence, its political aggressiveness and its large number of middle class working people who are doing well. As teachers in the public schools, and public officials, the Chicago colored people have more than maintained their proportionate quota. In business and industry they are still behind but pushing rapidly forward. Small wonder that a progressive, alert group like this should maintain the largest circulation, per capita, as buyers of *THE CRISIS*.



THE MILLER WAREHOUSE



ST. MARK M. E. CHURCH



## SOME CHICAGOANS OF NOTE



IT is a difficult task to single out for mention some of the colored people in Chicago who have made a mark in the world. First and foremost our limited space makes it quite impossible to mention more than a few and those whom we select are selected rather as examples than as an exhaustive list.

Our cover carries the picture of Franklin A. Denison, Colonel of the Eighth Infantry, Illinois National

Guard. Colonel Denison is a graduate of Lincoln and of the Union College of Law. He was for many years Assistant Prosecuting Attorney of the City of Chicago and afterward Assistant Corporation Counsel.

The Eighth Regiment, of which he was elected colonel in 1914, was first mustered in as a battalion in 1895. In 1898 it was raised to regimental strength and saw service in the Spanish



QUINN CHAPEL (A. M. E.)



ST. THOMAS (P. E.)



OLIVET (BAPTIST)



DR. C. E. BENTLEY

MR. OSCAR DE PRIEST

DR. DANIEL WILLIAMS

war under Colonel Marshall who must be regarded as its founder and chief inspiration. In 1908 a movement was started to provide an armory and permanent home for the regiment. After a long and weary struggle in which Colonel Denison took a prominent part the armory was finally ready for occupancy in February, 1915. It is constructed of fire brick with stone trimmings and has a drill floor one hundred and sixty feet by ninety, beside corridors, executive offices and company rooms, thirty-eight by twenty-eight feet.

¶ The best known colored American in Chicago outside of mere racial lines is undoubtedly Charles E. Bentley. Dr. Bentley is a dentist. He was born in

Ohio, educated in the public schools of Cincinnati and received his dental training at the Chicago College of Dental Surgery. He early became so proficient in his work as to number many of the most prominent citizens of Chicago among his patients and to draw others from outside the city.

But Dr. Bentley has been more than a mere dentist. In 1896 at a meeting of the Illinois Dental Society, Dr. Bentley made the first suggestion of dental examinations in the public schools. Afterward he submitted a comprehensive report on the matter to the Odontographic Society and from this have sprung the dental examinations made in nearly all the public schools of the country. The



MR. W. F. CHILDS

MR. JOSEPH MILLER

REV. M. H. JACKSON



THE OVERTON HYGIENIC MANUFACTURING COMPANY

above society was organized by Dr. Bentley in 1888 and he was its first president. Under his management it held in 1903 a great dental congress with three thousand members of the profession and a thousand dental students in attendance. As a reward for this Dr. Bentley was made head of the dental clinics at the St. Louis Exposition but resigned on account of the prejudice of southern whites.

Of late years Dr. Bentley has been prominent in civic work: for twenty years he has been the secretary of the Provident Hospital and is one of the Directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

☐ Sheadrick B. Turner is one of the two colored men elected to the Illinois Legislature from Chicago and is one of the three representatives from the First

Senatorial District. He follows a number of colored men from this district, among them Edward H. Morris, William Martin, John Jones, Dr. Lane and Edward D. Green. In 1912 the split of the Republican Party resulted in the loss of a colored representative from this district, so that Mr. Turner takes up race representation where Mr. Green left off.

Mr. Turner was born in Bayou, Louisiana, July 12, 1869. Finishing the public schools in 1878 he moved to Kane County, Illinois, where he was graduated from the high school. Moving to Springfield he took a course in the Springfield Business College. In June, 1908, he was graduated from the Illinois College of Law.

☐ The most noted colored physician in the United States is Daniel Hale Williams who was born in Pennsylvania in



PROVIDENT HOSPITAL AND VICINITY



MRS. I. W. BARNETT



MRS. L. B. SHREVES



MISS V. M. ANDERSON

1888. Dr. Williams is a graduate of the Northwestern Medical School, has long practiced in Chicago and while a member of the Illinois State Board of Health became one of the principal promoters and founders of Provident Hospital in 1891. This hospital established the first training school for colored nurses. Dr. Williams remained as attending surgeon in this hospital until 1912. For several years he was surgeon-in-chief of Freedmen's Hospital, Washington, D. C., and is now connected with Meharry Medical

College and St. Luke's Hospital, Chicago.

Dr. Williams is famous as the first physician to perform a successful operation on the human heart. He was made a fellow of the American College of Surgeons in 1913 and received the degree of LL.D. from Wilberforce University.

Mr. Oscar DePriest is the first colored man to be elected a member of the Chicago Common Council. He was born in Alabama, and is forty-three



MR. E. H. WRIGHT



REV. J. W. ROBINSON



DR. G. C. HALL



WHERE THE EXPOSITION WILL BE HELD

years of age with a wife and two sons. He was originally a painter but is now engaged in the real estate business and has long been prominent in politics.

☐ Mr. Edward H. Wright has also held high office having been County Commissioner and has just been appointed Assistant Corporation Counsel at a salary of five thousand dollars by the Mayor of Chicago.

☐ Another prominent Chicago physician is Dr. George Cleveland Hall. He has been for twenty years attending surgeon of the Provident Hospital and has given much of his time lately to the holding of surgical clinics and the establishment of infirmaries throughout the large cities of the South.

Dr. Hall is a prominent member of many movements for uplift including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Negro Business League, the Frederick Douglas Center and the Wabash

Avenue Department of the Young Men's Christian Association.

☐ Among the prominent ministers of Chicago may be mentioned the Rev. A. J. Carey, who has recently been appointed Special Investigator of the Corporation Counsel by Mayor Thompson. Dr. Carey was pastor of Quinn Chapel.

☐ The Rev. H. M. Jackson has been for twenty-five years pastor of the First Colored Presbyterian Church of the city. He is especially honored for his upright character.

☐ The Rev. J. B. Massiah of the Protestant Episcopal Church has been in Chicago for more than ten years and in that time has quadrupled his congregation.

☐ Among other clergymen are the Rev. John W. Robinson, the Rev. E. J. Fisher and a number of pastors whose biographies we have been unable to obtain. We learn of Dr. Fisher's death as we go to press.

☐ Mr. William F. Childs, Lieutenant of Police, has already been spoken



ONE OF DR. BENTLEY'S OFFICES





THE HON. S. B. TURNER

of in *THE CRISIS*. He has had a distinguished career and is in the Bureau of Identification.

Among the business men Mr. Anthony Overton, the head of the Overton Hygienic Manufacturing Company, is one of the most interesting. His company was established at Kansas City, Missouri, in 1898 to manufacture baking powder with a capital of \$1,960 and two employees. The company now is capitalized at \$286,000, manufactures sixty-two different kinds of articles including baking powder, extracts and toilet articles and employs thirty-two people.

Among the other successful Negro business men of Chicago is Joseph Miller, the owner and proprietor of Miller's Buena Park Warehouse and Baggage Express.

Mr. Miller began life forty-nine years ago and ultimately started a small express business with one horse and a wagon. To-day his fireproof warehouse, with heated rooms and vaults, occupies fifty feet frontage in the busiest district of the North Shore of Chicago. He has three large vans and five express wagons to which an auto truck has recently been added.

Turning now to the women of Chicago we face especial difficulty in selection because of their natural desire to avoid publicity. We may merely mention Mrs. Florence Lewis Bentley, who was for several years literary editor of

the *Philadelphia Press* and is to-day a strong social force in the city.

Best known to the world is the late Amanda Smith who was born in Maryland and freed by her father together with her mother and six other children. Amanda Smith went to England at the invitation of Lady Somerset and spent twelve years preaching in Europe, Asia and Africa. She gave every cent of the savings thus accumulated to the founding of a home for orphan children. She lived just long enough to see this home for which she had sacrificed everything assured permanence by being placed under State control. She died in Florida in 1915 at the age of seventy-eight.

Mrs. Ida Wells Barnett is one of the best known colored women in America and a peculiarly gifted speaker. As a young woman and editor of a paper in Tennessee she witnessed the lynching of three respectable and entirely innocent colored men. Aroused by this frightful injustice she started a crusade, and not before nor since has the world been so aroused over the disgrace of American mob murders.

Miss Wells married F. L. Barnett, a prominent colored lawyer of Chicago, and has reared a family.

We may also mention Mrs. Lulu B. Shreves, President of the only colored auxiliary of the Spanish war veterans in the State of Illinois, and Miss Violet M. Anderson, a law reporter, who numbers nearly all the colored lawyers and many of the noted white lawyers among her patrons.



MR. BINGA'S BANK