

# PUBLIC OPINION

## NOTE OF COMMENDATION.

By the Rev. Dr. Ernest Lyon, D. D., L.L. D., Former Minister to Liberia.

The author of this useful directory, Mr. Robert W. Coleman, deserves not only the confidence and sympathy of a generous public, but the gratitude of his race. The fact that he is suffering from the impairment of sight will help to further ingratiate him in public favor. Many men, thus afflicted, would have been content to be a recipient of charities; but this young man of genius and energy refused to beg his way through life. He conceived the idea that a directory of the professional, clerical, skilled and business people of the colored race in the city of Baltimore was a necessity; and so it was, for up to this time, there was no such institution for accurately locating the business and professional men operating in the city. This idea readily commended itself to a number of well disposed men and women, who immediately saw an opportunity to aid an afflicted, but worthy, young and struggling man to independence and usefulness. The first edition attracted State wide attention and commendation from prominent men among both races, and now Coleman's Directory is a necessity, and among the indispensables of every public and business institution. I, therefore, take delight and pleasure in commending not only the book, but the spirit of manhood and self-reliance, which prompted the author in his effort to maintain himself against physical complications. Mr. Coleman has been appointed a member of the Colored Division of the Maryland Council of Defense.

War Department,  
Washington.

February 15th, 1918.

Mr. Robert W. Coleman,  
1830 Lorman St.,  
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Coleman:

I write to say that the National Business League is always pleased to make note of such enterprises as you are fostering. I hope that your Business Directory of Baltimore may receive the cordial support of the business and professional classes of Baltimore. The circulation of your booklet should prove incalculably helpful in fostering race pride, and at the same time bring about that encouragement of negro business so devoutly to be welcomed.

Yours very sincerely,

EMMETT J. SCOTT,

Secretary National Negro Business League, Tuskegee, Ala.

Department of Commerce  
Bureau of the Census.  
Washington.

Mr. Robt. W. Coleman,  
Baltimore, Md.

My Dear Sir:

I take pleasure on behalf of the Library of Congress to acknowledge the receipt of your directory of the Colored Professional, Clerical, Skilled and Business Directory of Baltimore City, and further to say it will be bound and placed in the collection of books by colored authors and compilers.

It is the first publication of its kind ever recorded by a student of a blind institution.

Thanking you most heartily for the same, I beg to remain,  
Very sincerely yours,

DANIEL MURRAY,

Assistant Librarian, Library of Congress.