

Schoolmaster's Club of Baltimore

A BIT OF HISTORY WORTH KNOWING.

The Schoolmasters' Club of Baltimore, an organization of the male teachers of the city, meets the first Saturday of each month, except July, August and September, at the Pythian Castle, McCulloh and Preston Streets. The officers are: William Anderson, President; J. Clarence Chambers, Vice-President; William T. Griggs, Secretary; Levi P. Moore, Treasurer.

MAYOR HODGES OF BALTIMORE.

Soon after being elected Mayor of Baltimore, Mr. Hodges took occasion to say: "One of the earlier questions that claimed my careful attention after my installation into office was the feasibility of appointing colored teachers for colored schools. The initial thought of my consideration of the question sprang out of the conviction that colored children would be naturally more in sympathy with colored teachers than with those of the white race. I knew from my boyhood experience that sympathy between teacher and pupil is a powerful aid to the acquisition of learning and the lack of it a positive hindrance. Hence, I concluded that the education of the colored youth of the city could be best secured through the instrumentality of colored schools with colored teachers. On investigation I found that the soundness of my theory was confirmed by the absolute success of the system in the counties of the state."

MARYLAND COLORED STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

This association was organized on July 5th and 6th, 1886. Garrison D. Trusty was the first president and Cornelius Smith the first secretary. On December 27, 1886, the association held its first regular meeting at the old Howard Normal School, Saratoga and Courtland Streets, at which time a constitution was adopted, and an essay read by Miss Emma Randolph. Music was rendered by Miss Jane E. Hutchins and Mrs. John B. Washington. Resolutions on the death of General John A. Logan were adopted, and sent to his family.

FIRST HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT.

The first commencement of the Colored High School was held in Ford's Opera House on Friday evening, June 28, 1889.

The graduates on this occasion were Misses Gertrude and Nellie Anderson, Gertrude Deaver, Fannie McCabe, Mamie Neal, Mollie Taylor, Violet Thompson and Messrs. William H. Murray and Walter Scott.

WILLIAM WATKINS' ACADEMY.

Where is now the main passenger entrance to Camden Station of the B. & O. R. R., in Baltimore, there stood prior to 1850 William Watkins' Academy, a school in which a large number of colored youths of the Monumental City received their education. William Watkins was himself one of the best educated colored men in Baltimore before the War. He did much for the race. Among those whom he trained was his niece, Mrs. Frances E. Harper, the noted authoress and temperance advocate.

THE NONPAREIL ASSEMBLY.

One of the leading social organizations among the colored people of Baltimore, thirty years ago, was the Nonpareil Assembly. The officers were: Henry Smothers, President; George W. Harris, Vice-President; Simon Boston, Secretary, and Wm. H. Turner, Treasurer.

This organization usually held its affairs at the old Raine's Hall, Baltimore Street and Post Office Avenue.

The Nonpareil Orchestra, of which Lewis H. Pratt was director, invariably furnished the music.

LOOKING BACKWARD.

"Male and Female Colored Schools No. 3 were ejected from the building in the rear of Sharp Street Church (colored). The trustees would not consent for any consideration to have a colored public school on their premises. After several months of searching for a house, one was obtained on Camden Street near Sharp."—Report of School Commissioners, 1870.