

An Expression From Washington  
By  
JUDGE E. M. HEWLETT



My Dear Coleman:

I have carefully examined the proof sheets of your professional, clerical, skilled and business directory of the colored people of Baltimore and Washington.

When I remember that you are a son of Sergeant Alexander B. Coleman, who was commissioned by the State of Massachusetts to recruit the gallant Fifty-fourth Regiment in the War of the Rebellion, and who performed the services so well that he was complimented by the Legislature of that State; and when I remember his success as a business man in the city of Washington for many years after the war, and the keen interest he took in all things tending toward the uplift of the race, I am not surprised that you follow so closely in his footsteps and keep up the tradition of the family.

In producing this book you have certainly done the race a most unique and valuable service. It is in itself the strongest argument against the inability of the race to engage in successful competition with the other races, in the business world.

One is astounded when he learns from your valuable production the great number of men and women of the race who are engaged in professional, clerical, skilled and business occupations in Baltimore and Washington alone. The same being true of other large cities. It proves conclusively that the color of the skin plays no part in measuring the ability of people in any walk of life, and shows beyond doubt that it is brains and push, and these alone, that count for success in life, something in which no race has a monopoly.

Your production is peculiarly valuable at this time, when our country is engaged in a war for world democracy, and at the same time is failing to see that equal and exact justice is accorded the colored man. Peculiarly valuable because you deal, not in fancies but in facts; giving names and addresses; dealing not with those of the past, but of the present. This effort of yours will do more than any thing else to instruct the American people, as to the achievements of the colored people along all lines, and thereby create a sentiment in favor of justice and fair play, where such sentiment does not exist.

This work will take its place in the Congressional Library, and there be preserved as a reference for future historians; thereby linking your name, for all time, with the names of other benefactors of man.

You, my friend, are entitled to the lasting gratitude of the race.