

# MODERN DAMON OFFERS HIS LIFE FOR SNOWDEN

Little Colored Man From Wash-  
inton Re-enacts Story Of  
Damon And Pythias

## THE SHERIFF DECLINES

"I want to go upon that scaffold to-  
morrow and be hung in place of John  
Snowden," was the startling state-  
ment which greeted Sheriff Bellis to-  
day as he emerged from the door of the  
court house.

This modern Damon who would give  
his life for his friend Pythias had  
nothing of the heroic in his appear-  
ance however. No knightly figure his,  
no visored helmet, no clanging sword  
or shining shield.

In fact, this altruistic proffer came  
from a black Damon most insignifi-  
cant in appearance and certainly the  
last to be picked upon as a hero who  
would go to his death that his friend  
might live. Sheriff Bellis had to look  
twice before he really discerned the  
guise of a negro who spoke, for he was  
a hunch-backed little fellow of prob-  
ably sixty years of age, and had the  
further infirmity of total blindness.

The man was shabbily dressed and  
was being piloted about the city by  
an Annapolis colored man. He said  
that his home was in Washington but  
that he felt it was his duty to come to  
Annapolis and offer his life in the  
hope that it would be sufficient to  
satisfy justice, and to thereby spare  
the life of John Snowden, whom he be-  
lieved to be innocent.

"Do you belong to the colored  
lodge of Knights of Pythias?" he was  
asked, to which he replied in the neg-  
ative. He said that he believed he  
had heard something about the story  
of how Damon was willing to die to  
spare the life of his friend Pythias,  
however.

Sheriff Bellis was forced to decline  
the unselfish offer of the colored  
Damon but facetiously observed that  
he would "remember him when any-  
thing in his line was needed."

Officers state that the man has been  
seen in Annapolis several times but  
this, so far as known is the first time  
he has come into official notice. His  
meeting with the sheriff followed an  
effort of some time to locate that offi-  
cer and a long wait outside the court  
house for the officer to emerge.