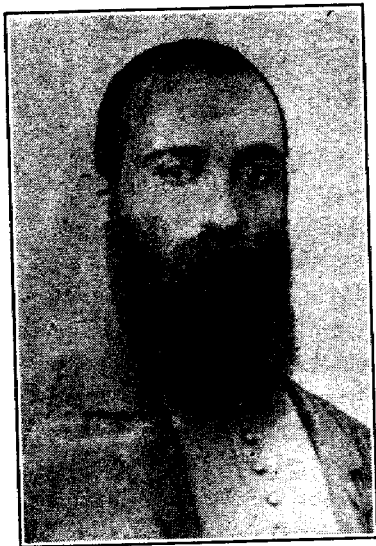
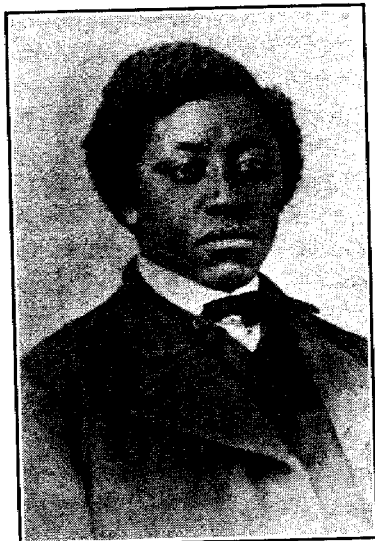


A BIT OF RARE HISTORY

The following gentlemen, Sargent A. B. Coleman and Fred. Douglass, Jr., were two conspicuous characters during the war of the rebellion of 1863, commissioned by the State of Mass., and were awarded medals by the Legislature of Boston for the part they took in recruiting the colored American Soldiers, particularly the 54th Mass.



SERGEANT A. B. COLEMAN



FREDERICK DOUGLASS, JR.

Sergeant Alex. B. Coleman of Boston, Mass., formerly of Louise Co., Va., is one of the two conspicuous characters in the Civil War. He was commissioned by the Governor of Massachusetts to associate with Frederick Douglas, Jr., to recruit the colored regiment, it was these two men that recruited the celebrated fighting 54th Massachusetts Regiment. Sergeant Coleman was an active Mason, and member of Prince Hall Lodge of Boston, Mass. In the early seventies, he came to the District of Columbia and became the proprietor of the largest barber shop in Washington, D. C., cor of 8th and D Sts., N. W. He became a very influential citizen, interested in all the interests to uplift our people. He married Miss Mary Catherine Jones of Detroit, Mich. He is the father of Mrs. Florence Gaskins of St. Paul, Minn.; Mrs. Daisy C. Arnold of Washington, D. C.; John H. Coleman of Chicago, Ill.; Dr. Alex. B. Coleman of Washington, D. C.; Robt. W. Coleman of Baltimore, Md., and Charles Francis Coleman and Ollie Coleman, Deceased. Sergeant Coleman died in 1881, at his home 708 D St., N. W., Washington, D. C., and was buried with Masonic honors. Judge Robt. H. Terrell of the Municipal Court of the District of Columbia, is a nephew of Sergeant Coleman.

The above cut is that of Frederick Douglass, Jr., second son of the late Frederick Douglass, born March 3, 1842, died July 26, 1892. He learned the trade of printing in his father's office at Rochester, N. Y. During the war of the rebellion, he was commissioned by the State of Massachusetts, together with Alexander B. Coleman of Boston, to proceed to the State of Mississippi, then, in secession, and obtain recruits from its colored population for the 54th and 55th Massachusetts Infantry and 5th Massachusetts Cav. (colored regiments), this duty they performed satisfactorily. Their headquarters being at Natchez, Miss.

After the war, young Douglass, together with his brother, Lewis H., came to Washington and established the New National Era, a weekly journal. The suspension of that paper from lack of race support was a sad reflection upon the race, as it was a clean, well edited paper championing the course of the race. Later on young Douglass was appointed a compositor in the Government Printing Office.