

THE LITERARY DIGEST

May 8, 1897 : p. 35

Afro-American View of a Naval Cadetship.—

The New York *Age*, the leading Afro-American paper, takes up the cause of R. C. Bundy, the colored nominee for appointment to the Naval Academy at Annapolis (see *THE LITERARY DIGEST* last week) in this vigorous fashion :

"It is disgusting at this late day to have the newspapers of the country deploring the incident, and to have the professors and the cadets at Annapolis yawping about the wisdom of giving a cadetship to an Afro-American and predicting that Bundy will never graduate, even if he succeeds in passing the entrance examination. The newspapers should be ashamed of themselves, and we expect to see Secretary Long sit down so hard on the professors and cadets at Annapolis that they will understand at once that it is their business to obey and not to command, not to designate who shall be cadets but to accept such as are designated by the President and members of Congress.

"There is no reason why Afro-American cadets at West Point and Annapolis should not have as fair treatment as those of any other race, and as they have at Yale and Harvard and the other leading colleges and universities of the republic; indeed, they should have a larger measure of consideration and fair play, as the military and naval schools are maintained at the public expense, and every cadet is educated as a pauper, so to speak. Why should these youngsters give themselves aristocratic and dictatorial airs? Why should they be allowed to dictate to the Secretary of the Navy and be a law unto themselves in the matter of their associate mendicant beneficiaries? We fail to see the point. If the striplings at these schools are to dictate to their superiors, to the Secretary of the Navy, and to Congressmen, in this matter, the whole system of naval and military education should be overhauled at once by Congress. The taxpayers of the country are entitled to this much.

"We admire Mr. Bundy's determination to go to Annapolis and take his chances. It is his right. We expect that the proper authorities shall give him proper protection. His only fear is that he will be violently dealt with. He should be rid of this. Let him go prepared to defend himself from the assaults of any gentlemanly blackguard who may undertake to intimidate him. He has a right to protect himself, and to be protected by those in authority at Washington and at Annapolis."

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