

TO BUILD UP NEGRO Y. M. C. A.

Millionaire Rosenwald Will Give \$25,000 to Each City That Raises \$75,000

Special to The New York Times.

CHICAGO, Jan. 16.—Some time ago Julius Rosenwald, millionaire President of Sears, Roebuck & Co., offered to give \$25,000 to as many cities as would raise an additional \$75,000 each for the construction and equipment of negro Young Men's Christian Association buildings.

At the annual meeting to-night of the Board of Managers of the Young Men's Christian Association, L. Wilbur Messer, General Secretary, announced that Chicago and Washington have collected the money and received gifts of \$25,000 each.

Mr. Messer reports that \$180,000 has been set aside for the negro branch in South Wabash Avenue, near East Thirty-eighth Street, Chicago, and that of this amount Chicago negroes raised \$10,000, which is said to be the largest sum ever collected from negroes for such a purpose.

SAYS SLAVES WERE HAPPY.

Mayor's Letter to Negro, Who Seeks Anniversary Committee Place.

James D. Howe, colored, of 76 West 133d Street, wrote to Mayor Gaynor yesterday asking to be put on the committee which is to arrange for the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the settlement of Manhattan Island. The Mayor sent him this reply:

CITY OF NEW YORK,
Office of the Mayor.

Jan. 16, 1913.

Dear Mr. Howe: Your letter of Jan. 16 suggesting that one of the negro race be put on the committee for the celebration of the three-hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Manhattan Island, is at hand. You remind me that shortly after the arrival of the first settlers the first negro slaves were brought here and sold at auction at the old stockade. How strange all that sounds. But it sounds still stranger that slavery existed in the State of New York when Lincoln was born in 1809, and was not abolished until the year 1827, namely, by an act of the Legislature. Some people are astonished when they hear this, and doubt it.

On Jan. 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln by proclamation freed the slaves in all sections where armed insurrection against the United States existed. This left slavery untouched in the States and sections not in a state of insurrection. Slavery was finally abolished throughout this Nation in 1865 by a constitutional amendment. It took over 1,800 years of Christianity to strike the shackle from the slave.

I knew out in Flatbush, now a part of Brooklyn, an old woman who was owned as a slave there when she was young. Her name was Maria Jackson. She died at the age of 105 years a few years ago. Her husband had also been a slave. I often talked with her on the subject, and she said her life as a slave was happy and that they were all well treated.

The committee is now made up, and out of my hands, but I will see if the Chairman can find a place for one of the negro race. Sincerely yours, W. J. GAYNOR, Mayor.

The committee will hold a meeting within a few days to determine just what kind of a celebration will be made.