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WINS FAME ABROAD

COLORED MAN FROM KANSAS IS SUCCESSFUL IN EUROPE.

Born in Leavenworth of Slave Parents, Owned by a Parkville Planter—Some of His Most Distinguished Work as Sculptor.

NEW YORK, June 30.—Abraham Lincoln Hanson is another artist to go abroad and achieve distinction. Additional interest is added to this fact in that the artist is a fullblooded negro, the first American colored man who has ever gained prominence in the art of sculptuary.

Particularly in Belgium, his work has attracted general attention, notable among his productions being a bust of the king of Belgium. Mr. Hanson has all the artist's eccentricities, and makes a specialty of appearang in strange costumes, a tendency which has aroused general discussion, his favorite masquerade being an Indian costume.

"I was born," Mr. Howard said, "in Leavenworth, Kas., in 1867. My parents were slaves, owned by a planter in Parkville, Mo. When he released them they moved to Kansas, and, owing to their very straitened circumstances, I was put to work on the farm to help eke out a living. The work was very distasteful to me, and I soon received the nam of a poor, lazy



ABRAHAM LINCOLN HANSON.

'nigger' on account of my neglect of the tasks set me.

"I shirked the farming at every opportunity, and spent every moment I could steal in making figures and animals out of clay and mud. One day when my mother took me to visit some friends in Kansas I found a peculiar kind of soft rock that somewhat resembled marble in appearance. In a few minutes I was at work with my knife, and in a few hours I had carved out a bust of one of the noted characters in the town, so lifelike and true to nature that I was considered a genius by the people, and orders for busts came thick and fast. I was able to give up the distasteful farm life and devote my time almost entirely to modeling.

An exhibition which I gave in Kansas of marble statues of Washington, Cleveland, McKinley and fictitious characters attracted much attention, and it was through this exhibition that I was enabled to have some of my work shown at the world's fair.

"While in Chicago I gave several private exhibitions of my work which received very flattering attention. At one of these exhibitions I had the good fortune to meet a noted Belgium artist, who expressed great interest in my work. At the close of the expoition he offered to take me to Belgium with him and secure instruction for me under the best masters. Of course I accepted, and seven years ago I left America and commenced studying abroad.

"While working in Italy I was presented to the royalty and requested to carve a bust of the baby of the royal house, a little 4-year-old fairy, and the idol of the entire household. I made a full figure of the little lady, which proved entirely satisfactory, and won for me the gratitude and favor of the king of Italy and his followers.

"I studied in France for awhile, and then came here, and I have been treated most kindly by the people of Belgium. I have given a number of exhibitions, all of which have been very encouraging. I have just recently completed a bust of the king of Belgium. His majesty graciously sat for me, and, although it has been a labor of eight months, I feel fully repaid for the hard work spent upon it by the approval it has met with. The king is delighted with the statue, and has offered to give me an exhibition in the royal palace. All during the work he took an active interest in its progress and watched every step, often offering valuable suggestions.

"At the last sitting I entertained him by modeling clay busts of Dewey, President McKinley and other noted Americans. Clay modeling has always been a fad of mine, and always before attempting to carve a figure or a head I first model it in clay. I usually destroy these little plaster images long beforethe marble statue is completed, but my studio contains a queer collection of studies in clay, subjects which have appealed to me, and which I have molded and put aside until I can find time to make them live in marble.

"There is seldom a day passes that I do not model one or more little clay figures, and by doing this I have gained great speed in producing these plaster casts. After the marble bust of the king was completed I took up a piece of clay and in ten minutes had finished another likeness of his majesty. The king was delighted and would not hear of me destroying the little plaster model. He declared that it was as lifelike as the marble statue which expresses eight months' labor, and the little clay figure occupies a place of honor in the royal chambers.

"I have been urged by the king of Belgium and others who are interested in my career to enter some of my work at the Paris expoition, and I have also received encouragement from America in this respect. It has also been suggested that I enter the internation modeling contest at the expoition, and if I do enter I feel confident of success, as I have already won the championship three times for the quaiand quickness of my modeling.

"I have frequently been called eccentric on account of the different styles of dress I adopt. I acknowledge it may be a foolish fancy, but I seem to work more easily and accomplish better results if dressed in the garb of the character I am working on. I also change the furniture of my studio if possible and surround myself with pictures, drapings and garnishings of the times in which my model lived."

FORMER INCIDENT IN CHINA.

Opportune Arrival of a United States Gunboat Which Occurred Thirty Years Ago.

From the Portsmouth (N. H.) Times.

The Hon. J. C. A. Wingate, of Stratham, who for twenty-five years was United States consul at Swatow and Foo Choo, China, writes entertainingly of an incident that came under his personal notice over thirty years ago. He says:

"The prompt dispatch of men from the Newark to Peking a few days ago to protect our people illustrates again the fact that, though our fleet in Chinese waters has often been all too small for the interests of our country, yet too much praise cannot be given for its promptness and efficiency.

"I witnessed a most interesting instance of this in 1869, which is recalled by the present parallel case.

"The boats of the British gunboat Cockchafer, under command of Lieutenant Kerr, were attacked by turbulent braves at O-teng-pui, a large village a little distance up river from Swatow. Lieutenant Kerr acted with coolness and discretion, but the banks were high and steep, and he was helpless to resist the attack. The wonder was that no British were killed, since the boats were well riddled, but no one was hit except Lieutenant Kerr, who was slightly wounded.

"Perhaps the Chinese firing was less effective from the fact that they used no wad, and shooting down, the bullet was half-way out of the gun before the force of the powder caught up with it.

"Great consternation at once arose in Swatow, even more among the Chinese than in the foreign community. O-teng-pui, with some confederate villages, had long defied the power of the local officials, and now the probability was that, puffed up at their seeming success over the British boats, they would attack and loot Swatow.

"There was no telegraph in those days, and it must be several days at least before help could be sent from Hong Kong. Great, therefore, was the surprise and joy of all when the next day an American gunboat was seen coming up the river. It was the Unadilla, commanded by Lieutenant Commander Arthur Yates. The Chinese noised that the American consul had sent [illegible] lightning for the vessel, and no one disposed to inform them to the con[illegible] The arrival of the Unadilla was er[illegible] unexpected, but was none the less wel[illegible]

"Lieutenant Commander Yates took [illegible] necessary measure for protection of [illegible] community. There were no citizens of [illegible] United States in Swatow itself; they [illegible] all living on the other side of the [illegible] but Lieutenant Yates went himself to [illegible] tow and won the praise of all by [illegible] kindly advice and directions for sign[illegible] the Unadilla in case of attack. For se[illegible] days the Unadilla was the chief reli[illegible] for protection. Then came the Br[illegible] squadron of four vessels.

"A landing was made, bluejackets [illegible] marines in force marched overland [illegible] O-teng-pui. The villagers, confident in t[illegible] conceit that if the British were all pow[illegible] ful on the water, the Swatow braves w[illegible] more than their equals on land, were p[illegible] pared for the attack. The Swatow man [illegible] stronger and braver than the Cantonee[illegible] but matchlocks and gigals were useles[illegible] to resist the men armed with breechloade[illegible] ers, there for the first time used the [illegible] British navy in action. In a few hours a just and most beneficial punishment was inflicted upon a proud and rascally village. A punishment, which, in its effect, was even more beneficial to the Chinese than to foreigners. This action, by a strange freak of British politics, brought censure upon the officers engaged in it, when it should have given them honor and reward.

"There was no longer any danger of attack upon the foreign community, but the Unadilla remained in port for quite a long time, her commander earning and receiving the respect and even love of Chinese as well as foreigners for his kind and wise advice to the Chinese officials, who were sorely pressed to satisfy both the demands of the British and the expectation of their own government.

"The service of the small vessels, the Unadilla at Swatow and the Monocacy at Foo Choo, count for little in the naval history of our country, but those who know how well their work was done will not forget the vessels nor their gallant commanders.

"Higgison is worthily honored as a rear admiral. It is a sorrow to those who knew him that death prevented a like honor being conferred upon one so worthy as was Captain Yates."

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