F. L. CARDOZO'S FAME HERE AND ELSEWHERE.

The Radical State Treasurer's Name Perpetuated By a Public School For Negro Children in the National Capital.

The State Bureau
1417 G Street, N. W.,
Washington, March 17.

I may or may not be significant; in either event it is interesting that at the very time that The Clearman, which attempts to portray the evils of Reconstruction and has its setting in South Carolina, was being produced in Washington, the alumni of the M Street high school for negroes in that city, had passed the following resolutions, of course without any thought of the play at the Columbia theatre on F Street.

"The new school building for colored children, which is located in the thirteenth division on 1 between First and south Capitol streets, southwest, has been designated by the Board of Education as the Cardozo school.

"We, therefore, tender our thanks to the board of commissioners, and that at the earliest practicable time we will place in the possession of the late Prof. Cardozo as a permanent testimonial of our esteem for his noble life and of our grateful indebtedness to the scene for naming the building after him."

The Evening Star in its report of the meeting says:

"Attorney R. L. Pollard paid a tribute to the memory of Prof. Cardozo. Mrs. A. J. Cooper, principal of the M Street school, was present. Subscriptions were opened at the close of the programme for the Cardozo bust fund."

Who was this Cardozo? The very same that was the negro state treasurer in the Chamberlain government. He was charged with having misapplied public funds. The charge was investigated and asked by the people, and he was afterwards convicted.

When the United States troops were withdrawn from Columbia in 1877 and the government, our troops, removed, completely collapsed, the aggregated collection of negroes, slave-boys, carpet-baggers, grangers, as commonly known as thieves, and now and then an honest face, was made to see in the hypnotic spell, all took up what little they had saved from the years of good stealing and scattered to the four winds of heaven. The Hermit, a negro by the name of Francis L. Cardozo, came to Washington, where he received an appointment as a clerk in the auditing department of the treasury. Besides having been state treasurer under Chamberlain, he had been also secretary of state under Scott.

Cardozo was an educated negro. At the time of the war, perhaps during it, he worked at ship carpentering, in the various ship yards. When he was 21 years old he went to Scotland and entered the University of Edinburgh. Here he graduated with such excellent distinction that he won a scholarship which allowed him two years university work in any institution he might select in Europe. He chose some theological school in London, where he went and became a "Reverend" His then entered the ministry of the Congregational church, receiving a call to a church in New Haven, Conn. Soon afterwards, however, he was sent by the Chicago mission board to Charlotte as principal of the Avery Institute. And from there, as his sons, who are here in Washington, tell me, he went into politics. And we know the rest. Here Cardozo's life and a column of Reconstruction tells us a few interesting items.

In 1877 Cardozo took his flight with the rest, as said above, and secured a job in the treasury department in Washington in the good old days of yore. He remained in this position until 1884, when through his old friend, "Dr. Purvis," he was elected to the position of principal of the school for negroes in Washington, and high school. H. W. Purvis is another character in Reynolds' history who entertains the author of that interesting Rogue's catalogue says he is a "fine figure of a Negro," and "Mr. "I live right here in Washington, Mr. Reynolds, and he holds down the job of some kind of physician or surgeon or instructor in therapeutics or something of the sort. The hospitals or something of the sort. Anyway, Uncle Sam has been looking after him for some good little while, I understand.

But we shall not talk about that principal of the high school until he died, about two years ago. He has a son, Francis L. Cardozo, who is supervisor principal of the Lincoln school for negro children in Washington, D. C. Another son is a druggist here.

I have made careful inquiries about the ex-state treasurer, likewise ex-con vict, for whom the district commissioners have made a bid to build a school building. They say he bore a good character here, and while looked upon with some suspicion perhaps, because they say he was "a politician," there is no such fear here. It is to be hoped that he would indicate that he ever managed to get hold of any public money or sell any State or national bonds, appropriating the proceeds to his private purse, as it is said he has done.

About naming the school after him, one negro with whom I talked seemed to think that he might have been a negro and a politician, and it seems in no way a universal or even a general wish on the part of the negroes of the district to name the building "Cardozo." It is thought by those in the result of the scheming of his sons, who have quietly circulated a petition to have the school named for their "extinguished" father. The commissioners, not knowing, not caring, have given a name.

"You know how these things are done," said a bright, educated negro of high standing, who also says that he was not born here, "Cardozo was highly respected and he did his duty fairly well, but he never did anything to entitle him to this distinction, that I can see."

Zach McGhee