

Wm. F. Childs; a member of the Chicago police force for eight years, has been promoted under civil service rules to the position of police desk sergeant; and, while it was quite creditable to the powers that be, that he was accorded the position, the Chicago department is not entitled to the distinction claimed for it, of being the first to place an Afro-American officer in a commanding position. Oscar P. Rabouin of Chicago was formerly a detective sergeant in Houston, Texas, and was a member of the force for twenty-eight years. There were many Afro-Americans who held commanding positions years ago among them, Octave Ray, who was captain of the central police station at New Orleans; Peter Joseph, who was also a captain of the Louisiana capital police; P. Boyard and J. Heay, both detective sergeants, and Ed Whittelsey, a detective sergeant in Galveston, Tex. Horatio J. Homer is a police sergeant at Boston, Mass., and there are and were others in various places. Again we say it was very nice of Chicago to give Sergeant the place he was justly entitled to but she was not the first to do the right thing toward a deserving man albeit he is an Afro-American. It might be well to add that Mr. Childs might, could, would or should be filling a more exalted position than that of desk sergeant of police but for color prejudice. He was born at Marion, Ala., in 1863 and is a graduate of Talladega college, Talladega, Ala. He came to Chicago in 1886. During his first four years he was employed as storekeeper for the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad doing car service at the Union station. He has been a sub letter carrier in Chicago and also assistant postmaster at Marion and must be a man of considerable intelligence to win these positions on merit.