

THE D. AUGUSTUS STRAKER

BAR ASSOCIATION AT THE RECENT ELECTION DID GOOD WORK.

The Election of the Judicial Ticket Last Tuesday Proved the Effect of Organization Among Our People.

Two years ago, the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association of this City and County, in order to compel better treatment of Colored lawyers and their clients endorsed and recommended a non-partisan judicial ticket with the result that 12 of the 15 candidates recommended were elected, and succeeded in defeating some well known Negro hating judges, who were seeking re-election. This year the Association made similar recommendations, in which it passed a resolution refusing to endorse several republican judges for re-election to respective Courts on account of the discourteous treatment accorded colored lawyers, and to the surprise of everybody, they defeated every one they opposed, and elected democrats in their stead. The most effective blow however, that was dealt the republican party was in the election of Hon. John E. Owens, a democrat for County Judge. The County Judge has the appointment of the Election Commissioners, and the Election Commissioners in turn appoint the Judges and Clerks of election, consequently the election machinery of Cook County is in the hands of the Democratic party for the first time in fifteen years. When it became known that this Association endorsed Mr. Owens, there was great excitement among some of the republican leaders and republican newspapers, and strong pressure was brought to bear upon the officers of the Association backed up with flattering promises in their endeavor to influence it to reconsider its resolution, and endorse Judge Rinker, the present incumbent, but the Association informed the gentlemen that its members had acted according to their best judgment and politely refused their request. Too much credit cannot be given to the members of this Association for the independent and vigorous manner in which they conducted the judicial campaign.

25,000 circulars printed in strong language with the names of their favorite candidates, and an injunction to vote for them and none other were distributed and mailed to every Colored voter in Cook County. Attorneys W. W. Johnson, John G. Jones, H. M. Porter, S. A. McElwee and John R. Patty personally attended to the distribution of these circulars, and spent several days visiting every hotel, restaurant and rooming house in the city with marked sample ballots and circulars, and Attorney John R. Auter, and a number of assistants took particular pains to see that the Colored voters outside of Chicago, were each supplied with sample ballots and circulars, and it is needless to state that the recommendations of this Association were followed by the Colored vo-

ters, as the result speaks for itself; necessarily there were a few high-brow" Negro lawyers, who have always opposed every effort to better the conditions of their people, who laughed at the endorsements made by the Association and said they would do no good, but undismayed, the Association continued its most aggressive campaign, and no doubt some of these same "cold feet to the monkes," are going around the successful judges telling them how they helped elect them. The Colored lawyers at this Bar as a rule have always received better treatment at the hands of democratic judges than by the republican judges, and we feel safe in saying that there will be a continuation of a friendly feeling for the Colored lawyers of this city. There are yet a few republican judges upon the bench and it is hoped that the lesson taught by the recent calamity will be heeded by them, and that they will understand that no prejudiced Negro hating judges will be tolerated by this Association. All the Negro lawyers ask is fair treatment for himself and his client, nothing more; nothing less.