

(Undated and unidentified newspaper cutting, 1906)

ZULU OF KING'S RACE A PRIZE ORATOR

Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Wins George William Curtis Medal at Columbia.

A Zulu, full-blooded and of the race of Cetsewayo and Lobengula who gave England the hardest fighting John Bull ever had in South Africa, not excepting the Boers, yesterday won the George William Curtis gold medal, the highest oratorical award conferred by Columbia University.

Pixley Ka Isaka Seme entered Columbia in 1902 and will be graduated this year. Mr. Seme, as he is called, is not the typical Zulu in appearance.

He is only five feet six inches tall and doesn't weigh more than 140 pounds, but his face bears the characteristics of the African of the higher order. He is the son of a chieftain in Zululand, and when he returns to his home expects to become Attorney-General for his people. To prepare himself for the post he will go to Oxford University, England, and take a four years' course in British law.

Mr Seme was brought here by a Zulu named John Dube who was educated at Oberlin, Ohio, and returning to his native land established an institute of learning modelled on the plans of Booker T. Washington's schools at Tuskegee, Ala. The young Zulu lived in Brooklyn for several months studying English, then went to Dwight L. Moody's school at Northfield, Vt., to prepare for college. His first intention was to become a missionary, then he decided to be a physician and finally a lawyer.

Soon after entering Columbia he began to show an interest in the debates and finally entered into the oratorical contests with a view to winning the Curtis medal. 'It's easy for me learn,' he said, 'and I can do anything I make up my mind to do.' Mr Seme's subject in the contest was 'The Regeneration of Africa.' He predicted a higher civilization for the 'Dark Continent'. His opponents were Horace A. Rozenblatt, Harold K. Bill and Maurice G. Ellenbogen. The judges were Dean J. Howard Van Amringe, Prof. George W. Kirchwey, Prof. Franklin H. Giddings and Prof Brander Matthews.