

Respect Activity

A NOBLE GENTLEMAN

Charles Young was a true gentleman, even at an early age. His parents taught him to think of others, not just himself.

One evening, Charles and a friend played soldiers in his bedroom. "Attention!" Charles shouted loudly. Then Charles heard a knock on the front door and his mother talking to a friend. "We better be quiet," Charles said. "Mother wouldn't want us to make a bunch of noise now that we have company around."

When the visitor left, Charles' mom walked into the room. "How respectful of you to notice I had company," she said. "You boys will make fine gentlemen."

Charles attended West Point Military Academy and served in the US Army for 33 years. "Charles," his commander said, "The Army wants to send you on a special mission to the island of Haiti. Your job is to keep an eye on political affairs and keep us informed of what happens. Be careful. Some people won't like having a foreigner there. Watch what you do, and don't cause any trouble."

Charles arrived safely in Haiti, excited to represent the Army as a military attaché. He quickly became friends with the local people, and he learned much about their culture and way of life. When it was time for Charles to go to the African country of Liberia, the Haitian people were sad to see him go.

Liberia was very different from Haiti. However, Charles did not let differences get in his way. He studied the new culture and made new friends. Charles also made maps wherever he went to help others find the remote villages more easily. He reported any problems he found to Liberia's leaders, and he even kept a civil war from breaking out.

Charles worked hard to show respect and avoid offending those around him. He honored local customs and displayed good manners. One bad experience could ruin his relationship with leaders in the country.



Charles Young, Military Attaché to Haiti and Liberia

By the time Charles returned to the United States, he was a national hero in Liberia. Before his departure, someone knocked on Charles' door.

"The President of Liberia wants to see you," the man said. "He asks you to come at once!" Charles straightened his uniform and followed the messenger. Armed soldiers and a large iron fence surrounded the President's home.

Charles wondered why the President wanted to see him. "Charles, you have helped us very much," the President said. "You are caring, thoughtful, and hard-working. We will miss you, but want to give you something on behalf of our people."

The President handed Charles a small wooden box with a beautiful gold pocket watch inside. "This is very unexpected," Charles said. "It has been my pleasure to serve you and your people."

"It has been my pleasure," said the President, "to know such a true and noble gentleman."