

entered, and then the House adjourned

## THE COLORED MEN

### MEETING OF A CONVENTION AT CHICAGO.

Delegates Present From Twenty-one States and the District of Columbia—None From the South.

Special Dispatch to the Chronicle

CHICAGO, January 15.—The National Convention of the Afro-American League was called to order this morning with delegates present from twenty-one States and the District of Columbia. T. T. Fortune, editor of the *Age* of New York, was chosen temporary chairman, and the remainder of the session was given to the appointment of standing committees.

In the afternoon Mr. Thomas T. Fortune addressed the meeting. He said, in part: "We are met here today to emphasize the fact that our past condition of dependence and helplessness upon the men who have used us for selfish and unholy purposes, who have murdered and robbed and outraged us, must be reversed. We have been robbed of the honest wages of our toil; we have been robbed of the substance of our citizenship by murder and intimidation; we have been outraged by our enemies and deserted by our friends. It is time to call a halt. It is time to begin to fight fire with fire. I speak as an Afro-American, first, last and all the time, ready to stab to death any political party which robs me of my confidence and vote, and straightway asks me what I am going to do about it."

In conclusion, Fortune urged the convention to leave each local league free to pursue such political course in its immediate community as the best interests of the race seem to dictate. "In national affairs," he said, "the league should not commit itself, officially, to any party. We propose to accomplish our purpose by peaceful methods of agitation, through the ballot and the courts, but if others use weapons of violence to combat our peaceful arguments it is not for us to run away. What is worth having is worth fighting for."

A Committee on Organization was appointed and an adjournment taken until to-morrow.

C. H. J. Taylor, ex-Minister to Liberia, who came to Chicago to report the convention for several Southern papers, left the city to-night. In an interview he declared that the proceedings were deprived of any practical force by the absence of delegates from the South, where the colored people were just as vitally interested in the race question. In addition, the leaders in whom the colored population had confidence and whose names are familiar to the public, were absent almost as a man. Taylor said that he had written nothing about the convention—that the occasion did not demand it.