

Afro-American Editors.

The National Colored Press Convention Meets.

The Organization—Proceedings and Resolutions.

Recent Legislation Denounced and Equal Rights Demanded.

[Special Correspondence of THE PELICAN.]

LOUISVILLE, KY., Aug. 11, 1887.

The National Colored Press Association assembled in the Fifth Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., Tuesday, Aug. 9, 1887, at 1 o'clock p. m.

The deliberations were opened with prayer by Rev. Hargreaves, of Knox Presbyterian Church. Prof. Wm. J. Simmons, of the American Baptist, was chosen chairman, and Horace Morris, representative of the PELICAN, New Orleans, La., was appointed secretary.

Alexander Clark, of the Commonwealth, Baltimore, Md., chairman of the Committee on Programme, submitted his report. The Committee on Credentials reported the following list of delegates in attendance.

Alexander Clark, Commonwealth, Baltimore, Md.

Rev. F. M. Hamilton, Christian Index, Jackson, Tenn.

P. H. Murray, Advance, St. Louis, Mo.

J. W. Wilson, Negro World, St. Louis, Mo.

Rev. C. H. Parrish, Monitor, Brooklyn, N. Y.

J. M. Burley, Busy Bee, Greenville, Miss.

Horace Morris, PELICAN, New Orleans, La.

Rev. Allen Allensworth, Missouri Baptist Standard.

W. H. Ward, Gazette, Cairo, Ill.

Miss Mary D. Cook, Baptist Tribune, Columbia, S. C.

Dr. H. Fitzbutler, Albert Mack, E. W. Marshall, Isaac Curtis, J. J. Johnson, Ohio Falls Express, Louisville.

John Mitchell, Jr., Planet, Richmond, Va.

Geo. F. Bragg, Afro-American Churchman, Norfolk, Va.

C. M. Wade, Tennessee Star, Nashville, Tenn.

W. H. Anderson, Watch Tower, Evansville, Ind.

D. A. Rudd, American Catholic Tribune, Cincinnati, Ohio.

J. H. Patton, Free Lance, Nashville, Tenn.

Miss Ida B. Wells, Sun, Little Rock, Ark.

Wm. J. Simmons, American Baptist, Louisville, Ky.

Wm. H. Stewart, American Baptist, Louisville, Ky.

Cyrus F. Adams, Western Appeal, St. Paul, Minn.

L. W. Smith, Baptist Journal, St. Louis, Mo.

W. H. Perry, People's Advocate, Washington.

The Committee on Rules submitted rules for the government of the Convention.

A committee on resolutions was appointed, to whom, it was agreed, that all resolutions, after being read, should be submitted, without debate.

Cyrus F. Adams, of the Western Appeal, offered the following, which, under the rules, went to the committee without debate:

Whereas, The Legislature of the State of Georgia has recently enacted a law making it a felony, punishable with imprisonment and work on the chain-gang, for any teacher to teach colored children in a white school, and *vice versa*, and as this may possibly be but the beginning of a plan, under cover of the law, to deprive colored children of other rights; therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of this convention that this legislation is one of the most damnable acts that has been aimed at the rights of the people;

That we condemn the law as contrary to the spirit of American liberty;

That we pledge ourselves to use the columns of our papers to condemn such outrageous law;

That we continue to condemn until such legislation is forever impracticable in America.

Short, but interesting speeches were made by Messrs. Alexander Clark, Allen Allensworth, Rev. John H. Frank, Dan'l Rudd and others. Recess.

The convention met pursuant to adjournment at 7:30 o'clock p. m., the exercises being opened with singing and prayer.

The minutes were read and approved.

Alexander Clark, treasurer, made his report, showing an indebtedness of \$3.55. The report was accepted and the indebtedness provided for.

The Executive Committee made its report through Alexander Clark, and a committee of three, Alex. Clark, J. M. Burley and W. H. Anderson, was appointed on Ways and Means.

Dan'l A. Rudd offered the following:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this convention, that steps be taken to organize the Negroes of the country to the end that a plan of action for the general good may be agreed upon and promulgated. Referred and the Convention adjourned until Wednesday.

SECOND DAY.

Convention met in Hall of United Brothers of Friendship, corner Ninth and Magazine at 10 o'clock a. m., Wednesday, August 10.

The convention was opened with prayer by Rev. Hamilton.

The minutes were read and approved.

Mr. Allen Allensworth begged to be relieved from the Committee on Resolutions, which was done, and Mr. John Mitchell, Jr., of the Richmond, Va., Planet, was appointed in his stead.

The chairman offered the subject for discussion "The Relation of the Afro-American to existing Political Parties."

The discussion was participated in by Allen Allensworth, Alexander Clark, Dan'l A. Rudd, and P. H. Murray, in interesting remarks, but without definite conclusion.

The following was submitted by J. W. Wilson, of the Negro World, St. Louis:

Whereas, there exists a serious difficulty in collecting the news of the negro race of this country, for our various journals,

Be it resolved, That a committee of five be appointed immediately by the chair, for the purpose of submitting a plan to the convention for the organization of a National Negro Associated Press.

Dan'l A. Rudd offered the following:

Whereas, the United States census of 1880 reports a shocking state of illiteracy in this country; therefore

Resolved, That we will urge upon Congress the passage of the Blair educational bill.

Also, the following:

Resolved, That Parnell and Gladstone, like Lincoln and Douglas, deserve niches in the topmost row in the Temple of Freedom, for their tireless efforts for liberty and equality.

Whereas, the people of Ireland like the American Negro have been suffering and

struggling under the injustice of man to man; and

Whereas, from every land where an Irishman is found, there comes determination unconquerable, and liberal hands to aid in the freedom of the Emerald Isle; therefore,

Resolved, that we send hearty greeting and warm congratulation to the Sons of Erin for their watchless devotion to a noble cause.

Dr. H. Fitzbutler, chairman Committee on Resolutions, reported the following

RESOLUTIONS.

We deplore the condition that makes this convention a necessity, and while it shall be our effort to secure equal and common privileges for all nationalities in places of public instruction, and demanding, as we do, indiscriminate privileges on common carriers and in places of public accommodation and entertainments, we have no other reason to offer for the meeting of this Colored Press Association than the realization of the privileges, pleasures and benefits that should be common to citizens of a country, regardless of nationality.

The colored press: none can comprehend the ostracism and prejudices existing against the colored man in the dark shadow of American slavery so well as the sufferers therefrom and, therefore, none are so naturally qualified to make the appeal against these evils as the colored man himself, and, at the same time, his honest and intelligent efforts in journalism will stand as witnesses of his native ability entitling him to the privileges of citizenship.

That the act recently passed by the Georgia Legislature, making it a felony punishable by fine and imprisonment, for any person to teach white and colored children in the same school, is the work of unreasonable and unprincipled men, who are a disgrace to the positions they hold, and to our common country; and such legislation is destructive to the national strength, in rebellion or in case of war with foreign nations.

That, while organization is the way to utilize strength, we deem it impracticable to attempt a national organization of the colored people politically, but rather commend local organizations adapted to the peculiar circumstances of places and people; yet, in any exigency, local organizations may call a national meeting for consultation.

That the work done by the colored press has been of incalculable good by placing the colored man in more just light before world, and in many instances curbing the biased representation of the unprincipled journalist; and that we recommend the establishment of a Bureau of Information to ascertain, in so far as possible, the extent and nature of lawlessness and mob violence against colored men, and to adopt means for the betterment of the present unfortunate condition of violence.

Resolved, That while the support of newspapers edited by colored men has at times, been earnest, yet in view of the vastness of the work and the diversity of matters to be treated, we call upon the leaders and the people generally to rally to the support of deserving journalism. Adopted.

The time of the election of officers having arrived, Rev. Wm. J. Simmons was placed in nomination for President, by Rev. Hamilton, of Tennessee. The nomination was seconded by P. H. Murray and Alexander Clark.

He was elected by unanimous vote, and made a few remarks thanking the Convention for the compliment.

The Secretaryship was conferred again upon Geo. F. Bragg, the present Secretary, and he made a few remarks returning his thanks for being elected the fourth time to the position.

The office of Vice President was conferred upon J. H. Patton, of Nashville, Tenn.

For Assistant Secretary, Mr. John Mitchell, Jr., of Richmond, Va., was placed in nomination by Miss Mary D. Cooke, and elected.

Miss Ida D. Wells was elected Second Assistant Secretary.

Mr. W. C. Chase was elected as Historian.

Alexander Clark was elected as Treasurer.

Mr. J. W. Wilson placed Nashville, Tenn., in nomination for the next National Convention.

Mr. Rudd nominated Cincinnati.

Alexander Clark nominated Chicago.

The vote resulted in Nashville being selected as the place for holding the next National Press Association.

On motion of G. F. Bragg a committee of three, with the president, was appointed to select an executive committee. Bragg, Clark.

The programme for the evening exercises was read and approved.

The convention then adjourned.

NOTES.

There were a few earnest men in the convention, and women too, for that matter, but that a large number of the members of the Negro Press Association do not read the signs of the times correctly, as Bro. Allensworth puts it, was patent to any one who had two unblemished eyes.

The majority of the delegates impressed me as being more anxious to appear as big guns, than to be of real service to the cause of progress. Every means possible was sought to boast up, and to make prominent "the greater than thou" ones, the self-asserting leaders, at the expense of their more modest co-workers.

Not in active journalism at the present, I do not consider myself a member of the fraternity, yet I flatter myself that I can distinguish the difference between a hawk and a handsaw, and that I can detect pinchbeck from the royal metal.

My observation has been, and I have been, an observer of men and events, and at times a modest participator in the work, that the frothy, noisy ones, who always and ever try to impress you with their importance, as a rule, are the ones who are not sincere and are only time-servers. There was a deal of "you tickle me and I'll tickle you" going on in the convention, but the "tickling" was confined to a select few—the others being as sour in regard to the sweetness; as though they had lunched upon green persimmons.

The noticeable ones in the convention were, first, the brilliant and earnest, I trust, "Iola." She is the pleasant-faced, modest Miss Ida B. Wells. Iola is the most prominent correspondent at present connected with the Negro press. If she does not suffer her head to become unduly inflated, there is a brilliant and useful future opening before her.

The other noticeable ones were John Mitchell, Jr., of the Richmond, Va., Planet; Geo. F. Bragg, of the Afro-American Churchman, of Norfolk, Va.; Alexander Clark, of Iowa; Dan Rudd, of Cincinnati, and J. W. Willson, of the Negro World.

Mr. Mitchell is a young man, bold in utterance, manly in bearing; courteous and refined, and thoroughly imbued with the importance of the duty of the Negro editor. He impressed me as being honestly in earnest in doing what one man can to try and elevate the people with whom he is identified. He has a big task on hand, surrounded as he is by time-servers and half-hearted fellows, who only publish papers so that they may have a lever to raise themselves above their true level, yet it is men of his stamp, young, earnest and zealous, who must do the work, or it will fail.

Rev. Bragg is another honest, earnest young editor, who impressed me as being able to read the signs of the times correctly, and who reads them with both of his bright intelligent eyes to some purpose.

He is cast in a different mold than Mr.

Mitchell, yet there is an impetuous earnestness in the man, that forces the cognition that he is a down-right good fellow, and an honest man. Just so men are wanted for this work, and for I bid both these earnest young Virginia God speed!

Alexander Clark is an old-timer. He dates way back in the past, in the days before the war; when the white man had the right (?) to wallop a "nigger" whenever he felt like it. He is an old abolitionist, and be sure a gizzard-footed publican. These old-timers, who are indoctrinated by such men as Garrison and Phillips, and Lovejoy and Giddings and Sumner have little patience with these late day heretics, who can see difference between the Democratic party and the Republican party.

There is as much difference between two as there is between the Lord Jesus Christ and his Satanic majesty, the Devil, as there is between heaven and hell. As he is a purblind, an ignorant, or knave who says there is not.

Wilson of the Negro World, is a young man of some force, yet it struck me that he would tack about, he could be of no service.

Dan Rudd, of the Catholic Tribune, is a man of some parts, and the publisher of the first and only negro Catholic paper in the land. His resolution on Lincoln struck your representative as being a bit of strategy. Dan knows that the Catholics, and he wants to make himself solid. However, Dan is the brother of a boy, and a down-right fool, and as good as the majority of his fellows in the Convention.

Another that I failed to mention, P. H. Murray. Murray first came to this country about twenty years ago as a Republican carpet bagger, but he is a mugwump Negro wump, or whatever the thing is called to-day. Good Lord! deliver us from people from these "alf and half" washy, good Lord, good devil like people.

I may at sometime give you another letter in regard to these men who have fastened themselves like "the old man of the sea" upon the backs of our people and are making them carry them out their schemes, their selfish schemes, self aggrandizement.

They ought to be written up, because they are a positive hindrance to the progress of our people, who unfortunately cannot discriminate always between worth and pretension.

But I fear this has grown too large, ready, so I will close.

The convention was closed with speaking at the Odd Fellows' Hall and a banquet at night, and the usual congratulatory resolutions were passed.

In many of its features the convention was a decided success, the only thing to be regretted being the subordination of the public good for the self-glorification of a few individuals.

The earnest, honest men were in earnest, but the tricksters, as usual, rode the field and put the proceeds in their own pockets.

KOIN KRAKE