

Reverend J.W.C. Pennington, formerly a slave but today a Presbyterian minister, appeared next on the platform; he was welcomed by vivacious displays of sympathy. First of all, he presented several considerations on the propaganda of pacifist ideas.

My friend Mr Brown, he continued, has said that the support of slavery in the United States is a factor in war. I share his opinion. But this fundamental of war is not in the spirit or the feelings of the race which I represent here. We have been wronged, but we do not wish to wrong others. There is in our character an element of peace which accords with the spirit of the Gospel which commands us to tolerate our wrongs. No other race of men has tolerated as much unjust, unmerited suffering as we have. (Hear! Hear! That's true!) For centuries we have endured the most hard and most intolerable oppression; we have been deprived of the joys of property, education and family, of all that is dear to man. At this very moment, at a time when all the other sections of the human race are marching at a rapid pace towards the conquest of liberty, we are still enduring all the horrors of slavery. (Painful sensation).

Certainly, if unlawful hardship, devoid of all law, justifies war, we could bring forward that justification. Our wrongs are much superior to those of a multitude of men who have upset world peace to obtain the redress of their grievances (New sensation).

But it is not the power that we lack to upset society. We comprise a fifth of the total population of the American continent.

In the United States and Canada, 3,500,000; in the West Indies, 2,500,000; in Brazil, 4,500,000, and in the other countries of the Americas, 1,500,000; total, 12,000,000.

More than half are still subjected to serving whites. Do you believe that twelve million people who aspire to freedom can do nothing to disturb the peace of the forty million other people among whom they live? If the justice of our cause is evident to us, we should no longer be unaware that it is our physical force. We too could struggle against our unjust domination. (Various movements) But we look at our situation in a wider and more elevated way. We have faith in God and his ~~unlimited~~ justice. (Bravo!) We prefer to leave the world at peace and to take God as the arbitrator between us and our oppressors. (Bravo! Bravo!) Fighting solves nothing. Physical force, as powerful as she may be, consolidates nothing. God alone consolidates. The great noise of the revolutions which have recently made such a din in our ears, have not shaken our fidelity to the principles of peace, even at the expense of our own tranquility and our legitimate grievances. We believe our emancipation will come without help from the sword. We believe that the benevolence we bring to ^{all} humanity, and even to our oppressors themselves, will be more powerful one day than the force which oppresses us. (bravo, applause).

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