

Mr. Sanderson said: I feel a deep interest in the work in which we are about to engage. When first it was announced that this Convention was to be held, I rejoiced. We are scattered over the State in small numbers; the laws scarcely recognizing us; public sentiment is prejudiced against us; we are misunderstood, and misrepresented; it was needful that we should meet, communicate, and confer with each other upon some plan of representing our interests before the people of California; we owe our friends of San Francisco thanks for taking the initiatory in this movement; it is the most important step on this side of the Continent; we have taken it in the course of improvement on which we have entered perhaps no subject is attracting the attention of the public more, than the efforts which the colored people are making to elevate themselves; the public eye is upon us; for our success in this, as in all worthy efforts, we have the best wishes of good men. I believe there are many in this State, this community, who are awaiting the issue of our deliberations with anxiety. There are those too, who think we cannot conduct this Convention with intelligence and ability; they expect scenes of disagreement and confusion; I trust we shall disappoint them; let us deliberate and act, each emulous to perform his duty; and when the report of our doings goes out before the people, they shall be compelled to say *well done*.

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