

With due deference to you, Mr. President, and to this respectable assembly I rise not to inflict on you a lengthened speech, but simply to say that I am opposed to the present discharge of the Committee. Pardon me, Mr. President, for, I am well aware that a part of this audience are not accustomed to colored persons speaking in their public assemblages. Without boasting, Sir, I would say to such individuals, that I am willing they shall consider me as the humblest individual in the House; yet I claim the privilege to freely speak on this subject, here or elsewhere; and, Sir, I claim that privilege, on the broad ground of being an "American Citizen."—Yes, Sir, a Southern born man, the son of one who lived and died a slave-holder—tho' no honour I presume, Sir, on that score.—Then I would say, that we have not been unmindful or silent observers of all the various means proposed, or used, for the last ten or fifteen years, in relation to the earth-cursing sin of slavery, as it exists in this country; and among the many plans held out to our view, we have duly weighed that visionary, and quixotic scheme of the American Colonization Society—that left-handed, one sided, self-styled philanthropic institution, whose data and termination are

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alike merged in prejudice and oppressions, I say, Sir, we have not been unmindful of its cruel persecutions, its base detractions, nor its unceasing and certain tendency to inflict on us, and our unhappy and down-trodden brethren, all of those evils which embitter life, and make it burthensome to man. That society, Sir, has addressed us and advised us to go to the death-dealing shores of Africa.—Yes, Sir, they would recommend to us that Golgotha of Colonization Glory!—And for what? Why simply to transform us into *men* and *citizens*. But perhaps after encountering and enduring all the horrors incident to a passage on board a return Guineaman: when we reach that much abused and violated land of strangers, we may be met and told (with truth) by some sable Chieftain of that soil, to return back to the land of our birth—that we are intruders there.—What then?—How shall we stand Sir? much, I think, like the tomb of Mahomet, as told in story,—with the difference of being kept in suspense between two repulsive powers!—But to the motion.

I say that we have been addressed by the Colonization Society, and some of their addresses to us are recorded in Heaven's great Book of wrath, never to be ef-

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faced; and others are recorded on earth, in letters of blood, written by the iron hand of cruel persecution, and to these addresses, Sir, our brethren have responded[,]
whenever they might do so, in one loud, long, and never to be forgotten, “no, NO, we will not go.”—And to-day, Sir, if a further answer is wanted, on their behalf I repeat the same unchanged and unchanging “NO.”—Here, Sir, were we born—here we drew our earliest breath—and here, repose in peace the bones and ashes of our fathers—(revered be their memories) and here by their graves, are we determined to die.

In the day when an invading foe threatened our shores, we were not asked to go to Liberia. Oh, no, Sir, we were wanted at home then! At that time I, with many others, assisted to cast up breastworks, and build fortifications, for our common defence and security. I had not then heard of American Colonization. Sir, is it for this, and similar acts, that we are now asked to go into voluntary exile? We challenge the page of American History to prove that, under all our greivances a free colored man was ever guilty of being engaged in any *treasonable* or *insurrectionary* act against this government.—None—no, not one stands on record; yet we have been invited, by addresses

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and otherwise, to go to *Liberia*—and I have told you, Sir, what our answer is.

Now, Sir, I beseech this Convention, of Pennsylvanians, that they will address the free colored people. To our kind friend, from New York, I feel much obliged for the document presented; but it does not suit the occasion, in my opinion: and therefore I voted against its adoption. We want a Pennsylvania address—from the people we live among, who know us, our habits, our imperfections, privations, &c.—who see and hold daily intercourse with us. We want, Sir, if you please, just such an address, by way of instruction, as this Convention, composed of Pennsylvanians is calculated to (and I trust will) give.

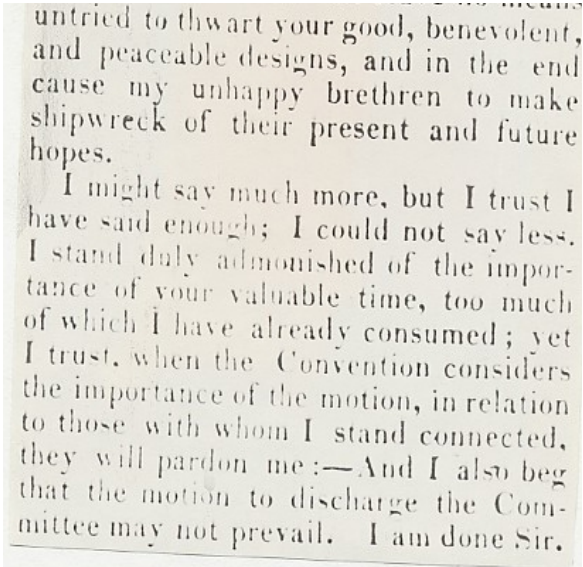
I ask it, particularly, at your hands; because I have repeatedly, and with much pleasure, witnessed the good effects of the wholesome and salutary advice, given time after time by abolitionists, to our people.—I sincerely believe that, under the guidance of the Divine Being, the abolitionists will save our common country from the natural consequences of Slavery—insurrections, bloodshed, and confusion. Again, Sir, I believe that, should this Convention not give our people their friendly and humane instruction, there are those who will leave no means

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untried to thwart your good, benevolent, and peaceable designs, and in the end cause my unhappy brethren to make shipwreck of their present and future hopes.

I might say much more, but I trust I have said enough; I could not say less. I stand duly admonished of the importance of your valuable time, too much of which I have already consumed; yet I trust, when the Convention considers the importance of the motion, in relation to those with whom I stand connected, they will pardon me: — And I also beg that the motion to discharge the Committee may not prevail. I am done Sir.



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