

[The President, [MR. PENNINGTON,] on taking the Chair addressed the meeting as follows:]

Esteemed fellow citizens I thank you for the honour thus conferred upon me. I shall not occupy your attention by any lengthy remarks; it would not be in good taste to do so, when I am merely placed here to give direction to the efforts of more able minds.

You will indulge me, however, for a single moment while I recount a few incidents in the recent history of Colonization.

Early in the summer of 1848 our attention was attracted by certain movements of a few prominent Colonizationists in and about the city of New York. The arrival of His Excellency [J.J. Roberts...] Rev. Beverly [... William Russell] and others from Liberia was the occasion of this new effort. Several public meetings were held. At those meetings the President of Liberia and his associates united with the Colonizationists, eulogised them for past success, praised them for present fidelity, and also blamed the coloured people for withholding their confidence from them as a class. The last meeting of their series was held in the Broadway Tabernacle sometime about the latter part of July. There was a respectable attendance of the coloured people of this city, who attended on invitation by public notice through the daily papers; but they found themselves grossly insulted by the Liberian delegation who reprovved, and reproached us in the most sarcastic terms for daring to love our native land. They were backed up by Elliot Cresson Esq. who presided over the meeting, and by J. B. Pinney, who acted as a sort of master ceremonies.— So outrageous were the insults offered to the feelings of the coloured portion of the audience, that several of them

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felt called upon to protest against the uncourteous allusions and insinuations of the speakers. But how were they received? The Rev. Mr. McLean the Secretary of the Colonization Society, and if I am not mistaken, the gentleman who acted as chaplain of the meeting said to a coloured minister who had made his way to the stand to reply: 'You have no right to come here and interrupt our meeting.' Elliot Cresson, the chairman, said, 'There is a meeting appointed for *your* people to-morrow evening in the Abysynian Baptist Church.'

At the meeting held in the Abysynian church one alarming fact was elicited, namely, that the accredited commissioners of the Republic of Liberia were securing to the American Colonization Society by treaty, the control of their public lands out of which new States are to be formed.

In these facts and circumstances of the case discerning minds among us saw cause for alarm.

Subsequently to all this is a coloured pastor of this city after due notice by hand bills and through the papers, assembled a meeting in this church and undertook to prove that the Colony, or Republic of Liberia was not independent of the American Colonization Society. On that occasion an array of facts and arguments were presented which could not be overthrown, which have not been attempted to be met, and which went to show that the Liberian Republic is still under the control of the American Colonization Society. Just about this time President Roberts, after receiving the freedom of this city and making a flying visit to Washington, sailed for Europe, and he obtained a recognition of the independence of his government by that of Great Britain, and also by that of France. A certain wealthy Colonizationist of that city made a visit to England about the same time

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and no doubt laid the President under great obligations to him, so that when he accomplished his object he hastened to report to him. To say nothing about the anomalous spectacle of the Chief Magistrate of the Republic acting in the capacity of Minister extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, this was in keeping with the bad taste and want of dignity manifested by His Excellency while in this country. And for this I know not whether to blame President Roberts or the leading Colonizationists most.

How will any American look these facts in the face; that while the Colonizationists dared not so much as apply to their own Government for a second Revenue Cutter for the President of Liberia, on account of the excited state of the public mind, they could send him to France to be recognized just in the midst of the fearful process of changing her government; and to Great Britain at the most crucial point of her history?

This bold and deep stroke of policy on the part of that Society has for its object the regaining of its oppressive influence in this country. It was the object of that Society to obtain a virtual act of incorporation from the British Government in connection with its recognition of the independence of Liberia. Hence, on the heels of success in that movement they have sent out their special agent to appeal to British philanthropists in aid of their funds.

Fellow citizens, the time has come when we must commence and fight the old battle over again. That battle, I mean, the history of which is given in one part of Garrison's Thoughts on Colonization--the part comprising the voice of the free people of colour. And I hope this will be one of a long series of meetings that shall be held in different towns and cities in the Union to give

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expression to the sentiments of the free people of colour in relation to the American Colonization Society. If the Rev. Mr. Miller has been representing your sentiments truly and faithfully, by telling the British nation that you are in a body ready and willing to go to Liberia, then let it stand so, and let it be endorsed to night by resolutions. But if it is not so, then say by your resolutions that such representations are untrue.

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