

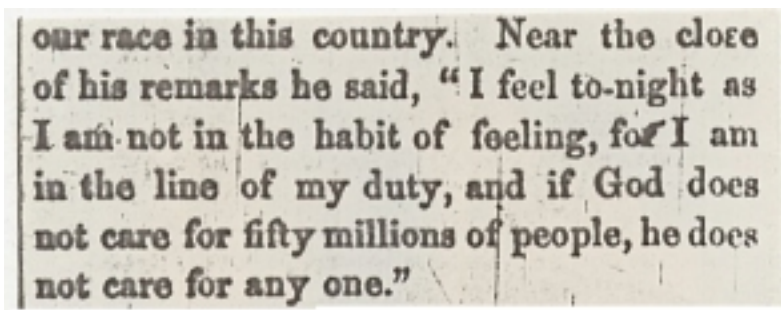
MR. EDITOR:—On Monday evening, the 9th inst., the Rev. J. B. Smith, M. D., of New Bedford, Mass., according to advertisement, lectured at the Masonic Hall to a very slim audience, only twenty-three persons, all told. Previous to commencing the Rev. James Underdue made a very fervent prayer, after which the lecturer proceeded to review the Boston Convention, which assembled on the first of last August. About one half the evening was spent in reviewing the proceedings of that Convention. The lecturer said conventions are as old as society itself; they may be regarded as the people's highest appeal, and no people need them so much as the colored people; yet they may be made the engines of mischief. The Boston Convention received the fulsome adulations of the press, but those who convened it did not carry out the objects for which it was called (he then read the call.) He spoke of the fifteen delegates from New Bedford who boasted, he said, that they would pay fifteen dollars each toward defraying the expenses of the convention, but who did not pay a single dollar. Conventions should only be called for great purposes—this Convention made a useless expenditure of money, for it affected no permanent good. The lecturer spoke of the controversy between George T. Downing, Esq., and Rev. H. H. Garnet, in which he said the former came off second best. He re-

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gretted to state that the convention did not draw up a petition to Congress to prevent the re-opening of the slave-trade or something equally important; but, instead of doing this, the Convention strained at a gnat and swallowed a great African camel. Our resolves to stay here and die in this country look well upon paper, but they will look better when carried out. There are more scholars among us now than there were a few years ago, but that only serves to create discord among us. He read a long list of professions, including among which were lawyers, doctors, printers, editors, newspapers and magazines; none of these, he said, were sustained by colored people alone, and nothing but truth could extort from him such a confession. Returning to the convention, he said not one practical measure was submitted to it; he sought the good of his race; and neither man nor devil should fright him from his purpose. At this juncture the lecturer discussed the slave question under three heads, the last of which was the sources of slavery—this was the cotton argument. It consisted of statistics of cotton imported from this country since 1793 down to 1858. He said King Cotton dreads a rival, and the explorations of Africa have not been failures, but the growing of cotton there will yet be our deliverer, though it has been the enslaver of

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