

[ADDRESS

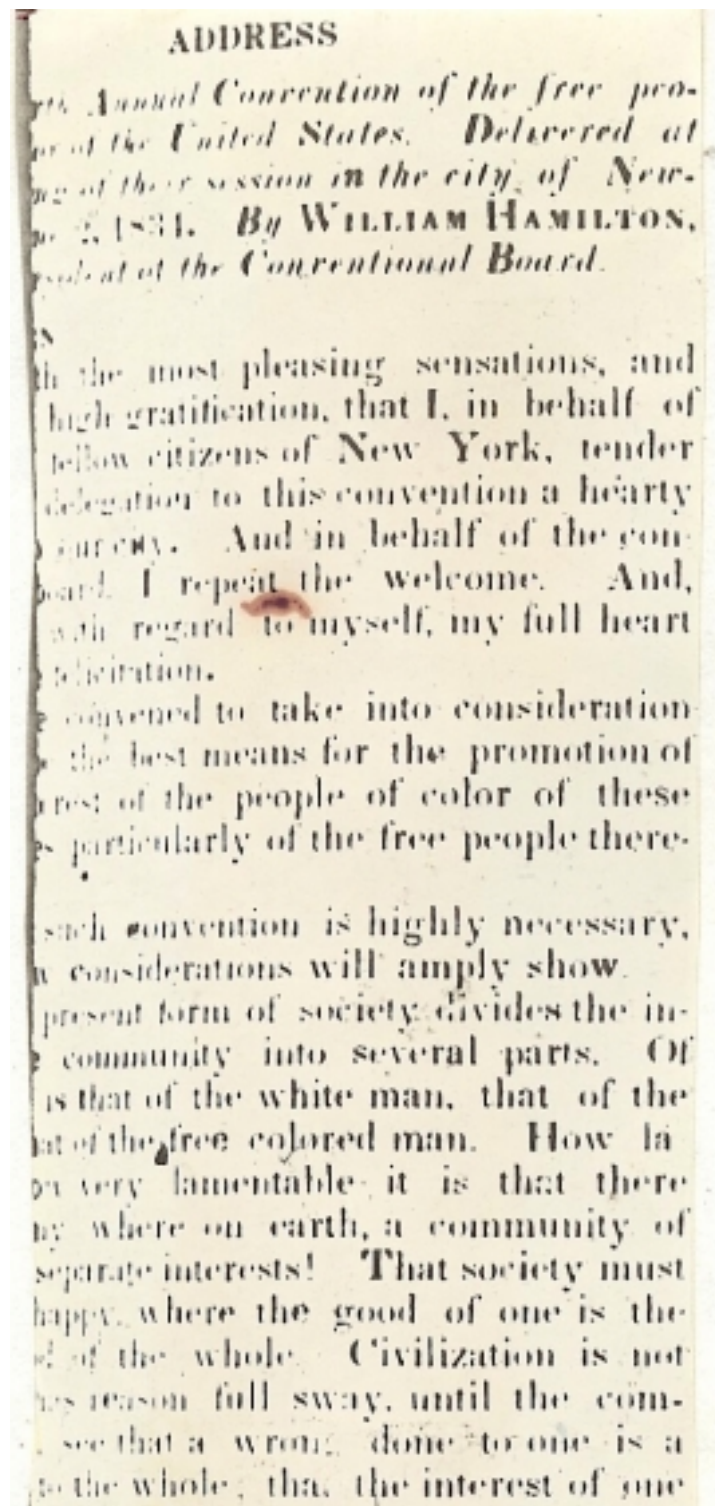
[The] *Annual Convention of the free people of the United States. Delivered at [...ng] of the [...] session in the city of New-York] 1831. By WILLIAM HAMILTON, [...] of the Conventional Board.]*

[...N]

[.th] the most pleasing sensations, and
[...] high gratification, that I, in behalf of
[...] fellow citizens of New York, tender
[...] delegation to this convention a hearty
[...] [our] [...]. And in behalf of the con[-]
[...] [board,] I repeat the welcome. And,
[...] with regard to myself, my full heart
[...] [...iration.]

[...] convened to take into consideration
[...] the best means for the promotion of
[...] [interest] of the people of color of these
[...] [...] particularly of the free people there-
[....]

[...] such convention is highly necessary,
[...] considerations will amply show.
[...] present form of society divides the in-
[...] community into several parts. Of
[...] is that of the white man, that of the
[...] [that] of the free colored man. How [la-]
[...] [how] very lamentable it is that there
[...] [...ny] alive on earth, a community of
[...] [separate] interests! That society must
[...] happy, where the good of one is the
[...] [d] of the whole[.] Civilization is not
[...] [has] reason full sway, until the com-
[...] see that a wrong done to one is a
[...] to the whole; that the interest of one



[...] be the common interest of the whole.

[...] [must] be a happy state of society where

[...] [interests] [and] to all alike.

[...sting] what a compliment to the na[-]

[...] expression of Mons. Vallier a celebra[-]

[...] in Africa, where speaking of the Hot[-]

[....] There none need to offer them

[...ects] of compassion, for all are compas-

[....] [W]hatever our early-tutored prejudice

[...] [the] contrary, such a people must be

[...] [me] a residence in such a society,

[fairly] myself in a community the most

[....]

[...] for the people of color in this communi-

[...] [...erest] is not identified with that of oth-

[...] them, white men stand aloof[.] For

[...] of pity hath scarcely a tear[.]

[...] the hand of kindness is palsied, to

[...] of mercy scarcely are given. To

[...] of scorn is pointed; contumely

[...] is continually theirs. They are a

[...] and a by-word. They must cringe,

[and] crawl, and succumb to their peers

[...] [long] has the demon of prejudice and

[...] [beset] their path. And must they make

[...] [throw] off the evils by which they are

[...ght] they not to meet to spread out their

[...] [one] another? Ought they not to

[...] on the best means of relief? Ought

[...] [the] one weak effort; nay, one strong,

[...] [final] effort, to roll off the burden that

[....]

[...] circumstances it is highly neces-

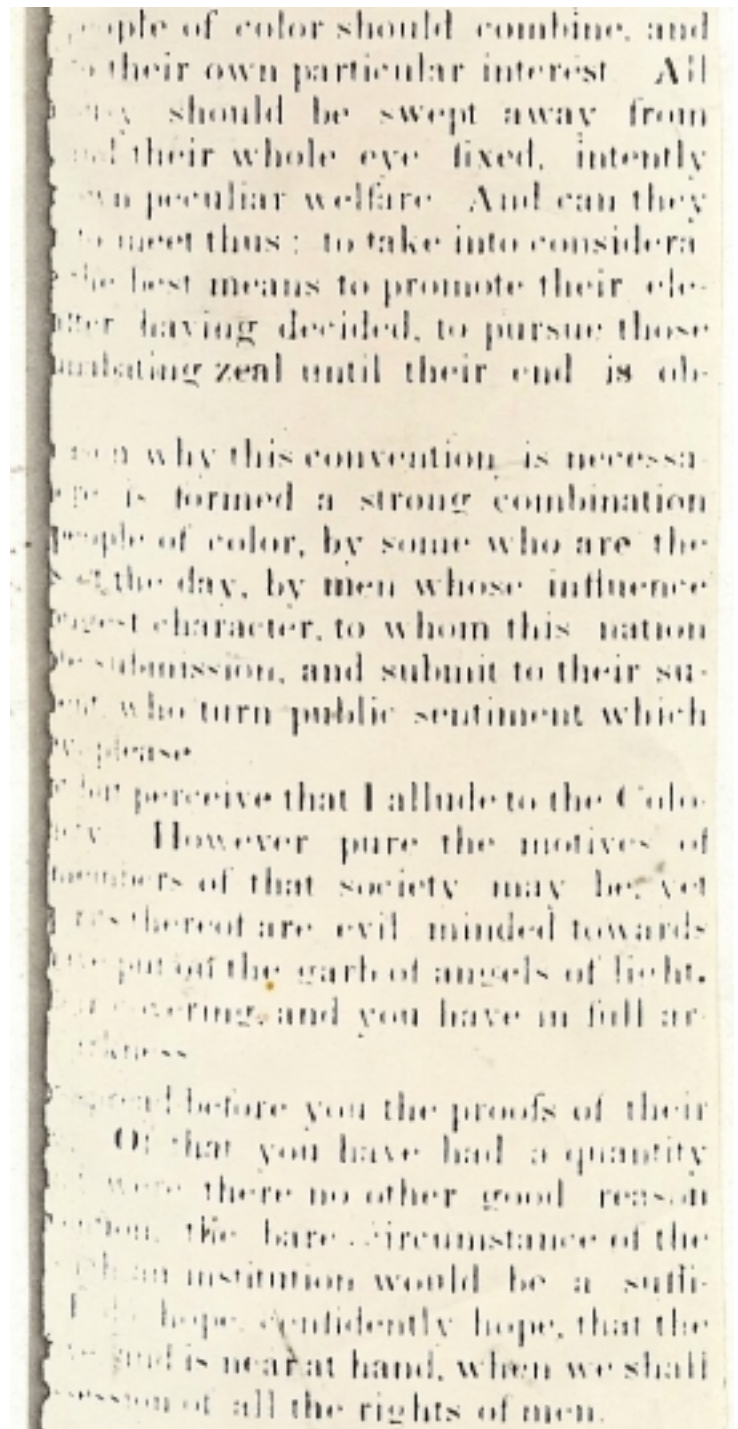
to be the common interest of the whole,
must be a happy state of society where
its interests are to all alike.
Say, what a compliment to the na-
tion's expression of Mons. Vallier a celebra-
tion in Africa, where speaking of the Hot-
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selves objects of compassion, for all are compas-
sionate. Whatever our early-tutored prejudice
the contrary, such a people must be
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they myself in a community the most
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beset their path. And must they make
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take one weak effort; nay, one strong,
final effort, to roll off the burden that
in circumstances it is highly neces-

[...] [people] of color should combine and
[...] [in] their own particular interest[.] All
[...] [they] should be swept away from
[...] [and] their whole eye fixed, intently
[...] [own] particular welfare. And can they
[...] to meet thus: to take into considera-
[...] [the] best means to promote their ele-
[...] [after] having decided, to pursue these
[...] [unabating] zeal until their end is ob-
[....]

[...] [...] why this convention necessa-
[...] [here] is formed a strong combination
[...] people of color, by some who are the
[...] [of] the day, by men whose influence
[...] [...gest], to whom this nation
[...] [...] submission, and submit to their su-
[...] [...] who turn public sentiment which
[...] please[.]

[...] [what] perceive that I allude to the Colo-
[...] [duty.] However pure the motives of
[...] [members] of that society may be; yet
[...] [...] thereof are evil minded towards
[...] [they] put [on] the garb of angels of light.
[...] [...] [covering,] and you have in full are
[...] [darkness.]

[...] [spread] before you the proofs of their
[....] O[f] that you have had a quantity
[...] were there no other good reason
[...] [brethren,] the bare circumstance of the
[...] [such] [an] institution would be a suffi-
[...] [...] I do hope, confidently hope, that the
[...] [I've] [and] is near at hand, when we shall
[...] [possession] of all the rights of men.



[...] [...] least as the Colonization Society
[...] [alienation] of colored people [be] high
[...] [This] society is the great Dagon of
[...] to whom the people [bow] and cry[.]
[...] [and] to whom they would sacrifice
[people of color.] That Society has spread
[...] [the] [whole] [land.] It is artful, it suits it-
[...] [...] It is one thing at the south,
[...] [at the north;] it blows hot and cold,
[...] [bitter] and sweet; it sometimes [rep-]
[...] [the most] corrupt, vicious, and aban-
[...] [loss] of men in the community. —
There again we are kind, meek, and gentle. Here
we are ignorant, idle, a nuisance, and a drawback
on the resources of the country. But as abandon[-]
ed as we are, in Africa we shall civilize and Chris-
tianize all that heathen country[.]

And by thus preaching continually, they have
distilled into the minds of the community a desire
to see us removed.

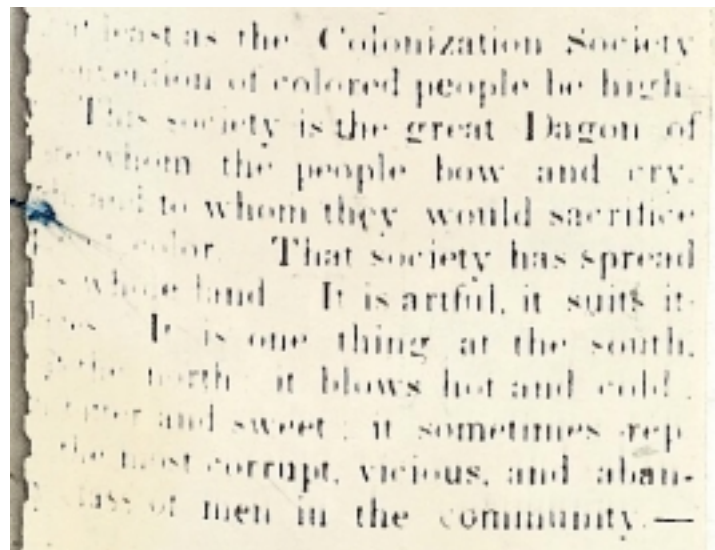
They have resorted to every artifice to effect
their purposes.

By exciting in the minds of the whole commu-
nity the fears of insurrection and amalgamation;

By petitioning state legislatures to grant us no
favors;

By using their influence to prevent the estab-
lishment of seminaries for our instruction in the
higher branches of education.

And such are the men of that society that the
community are blind to their absurdities, contra-
dictions, and paradoxes. They are well acquainted
with the ground and the wiles by which to be-



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nity the fears of insurrection and amalgamation;

By petitioning state legislatures to grant us no
favors;

By petitioning congress to aid in sending us
away;

By using their influence to prevent the estab-
lishment of seminaries for our instruction in the
higher branches of education.

And such are the men of that society that the
community are blind to their absurdities, contra-
dictions, and paradoxes. They are well acquainted
with the ground and the wiles by which to be-

guile the people.

It is therefore highly necessary we should meet, in order that we may confer on the best means to frustrate the purpose of so awful a foe[.]

I would be leave to recommend an attentive consideration to this matter. Already you have done much toward the enervation of this giant[;] he begins to grow feeble; indeed he seems to be making his last struggle, if we may judge from his recent movements. Hang around him; assail him quickly[.] He is vulnerable[.] Well pointed darts will fetch him down, and soon he breathes no more[.]

Cheer up, my friends! Already has your protest against the Colonization Society shown to the world that the people of color are not willing to be expatriated. Cheer up. Already a right feeling begins to prevail. The friends of justice, of humanity, and the rights of man are drawing rapidly together, and are forming a moral phalanx in your defence.

That hitherto strong-footed, but sore-eyed vixen, prejudice, is limping off, seeking the shade. The Anti-Slavery Society and the friends of immediate abolition, are taking a noble, bold, and manly stand, in the cause of universal liberty. It is true they are assailed on every quarter, but the more they are assailed the faster they recruit. From present appearances the prospect is cheering in a high degree. Anti-Slavery Societies are forming in every direction.

Next August proclaim the British dominions free from slaves.

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These United states are her children, they will soon follow so good an example[.] Slavery, that Satanic monster, that beast whose mark has been so long stamped on the forehead of the nations, shall be chained and cast down into blackness and darkness forever[.]

Soon, my brethren, shall the judgment be set. Then shall rise in glory and triumph, reason, virtue, kindness and liberty, and take a high exalted stand among the sons of men. Then shall tyranny, cruelty, prejudice and slavery be cast down to the lowest depths of oblivion; yea, be banished from the presence of God, and the glory of his power forever. Oh blessed consummation, and devoutly to be desired!

It is for you, my brethren, to help on in this work of moral improvement[.] Man is capable of high advances in his reasoning and moral faculties[.] Man is in the pursuit of happiness[.] And reason, or experience, which is the parent of reason, tells us that the highest state of morality is the highest state of happiness. Aside from a future day of judgment and retribution, there is always a day of retribution at hand. That society is most miserable that is most immoral — that most happy that is most virtuous. Let me therefore recommend earnestly that you press upon our people the necessity and advantage of a moral reformation[.] It may not produce an excess of riches, but it will produce a higher state of happiness, and render our circumstances easier[.]

You, gentlemen, can begin here. By managing this conference in a spirit of good will and true po-

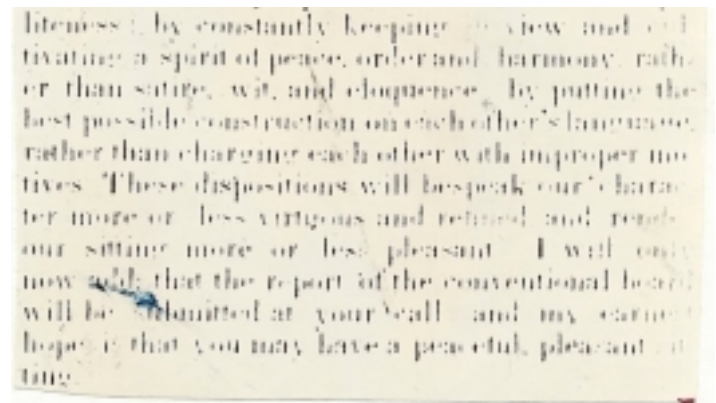
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tivating a spirit of peace, order and harmony rath-
er than satire, wit, and eloquence[;] [by putting] the
best possible construction on each other's [language]
rather than charging each other with improper mo[-]
tives[.] These dispositions will bespeak our [chara-]
cter more or less virtuous and [refined] and [rends]
our sitting more or less pleasant[.] I will [only]
now add, that the report of the conventional board
will be submitted at your call[;] and my [earnest]
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