

Jan[uary] 15-18, 1851

Jenkins, David

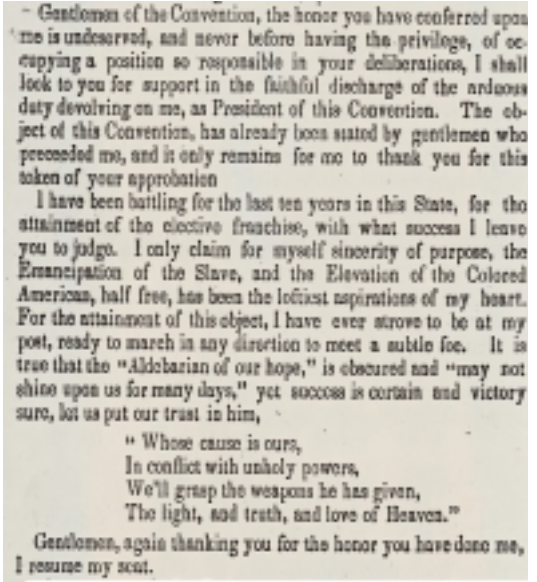
*[Proceedings] – Minutes of the State Convention of the  
Colored Citizens of Ohio Convened at Columbus ...  
Presscopy – Harvard University – Anti-Slavery Pamphlets*

Gentlemen of the Convention, the honor you have conferred upon me is undeserved, and never before having the privilege, of occupying a position so responsible in your deliberations, I shall look to you for support in the faithful discharge of the arduous duty devolving on me, as President of this Convention. The object of this Convention, has already been stated by gentlemen who preceeded me, and it only remains for me to thank you for this token of your approbation.

I have been battling for the last ten years in this State, for the attainment of the elective franchise, with what success I leave you to judge. I only claim for myself sincerity of purpose, the Emancipation of the Slave, and the Elevation of the Colored American, half free, has been the loftiest aspiration of my heart. For the attainment of this object, I have ever strove to be at my post, ready to march in any direction to meet a subtle foe. It is true that the "Aldebarian of our hope," is obscured and "may not shine upon us for many days," yet success is certain and victory sure, let us put our trust in him,

"Whose cause is ours,  
In conflict with unholy powers,  
We'll grasp the weapons he has given,  
The light, and truth, and love of Heaven."

Gentlemen, again thanking you for the honor you have done me, I resume my seat.



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