

Rev. J. B. Smith's Lecture in
Philadelphia.

MR. EDITOR:—

I listened last Thursday evening to a harangue of great length by Dr. John B. Smith of African notoriety, or more recently of Haytian emigration, who it seems is one of Redpath's paid traveling agents, to induce the colored people to leave their native land for one they know not of.

He attempted to show, in the first place, that God had made us emigrationists, by saying that He never intended Adam and Eve to remain in the garden of Eden. He was hard put, too, for argument, as all the old arguments have become threadbare. Said he, "God is an emigrationist, and all who find fault with it must find fault with God."

His next point was that objections were made to emigration, because it unsettled the minds of the people. He then made a deplorable picture of our starving condition in this country. The starving part he may be acquainted with, for all I know, but the colored people in Philadelphia are not starving, I can assure you. But my impression is if he expects to make a living by running around the country trying to get the colored people to emigrate to Hayti, or Africa, or elsewhere, he will starve.

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His next point was that there was too much talking done. He seemed to have forgotten that his pay was depending upon his talk, and his pay perhaps was the only

reason why he did talk.

He then referred to the various conventions that have been held by the colored people. He said that no good had ever come out of them. His remarks startled me, coming from a professed minister of the gospel. Nothing seemed to be worthy of the gentleman's attention but emigration.

What seemed to hurt him more than anything was, that some one had a clam bake in some part of the country, I know not where (for he did not tell us), that cost some five thousand dollars, so he says. And from the various allusions made to the subject, I came to the conclusion that he was not invited, or does not love clams.

He made several allusions to gentlemen wearing black coats; who he meant I am not able to say. He said that he was at some meeting where an invitation was given to Mrs. Leary to come and take up her abode with them; but he opposed it and begged them not to have her come and starve with them.

His picture of the condition of the colored people in the United States was a very deplorable one, as all make it when they want to make a dollar by inducing us to leave the country.

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school referred to was the school taught by Mr. Bustill, he said it was, and the building where the school was held had nothing above it, nor nothing below it. He called it a cellar. So much for the gentleman's veracity. He then wound up his harangue by offering his books for sale, filled with misrepresentations, not to say falsehoods, at twenty-five cents a piece. G. W. G.

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