

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE ILLINOIS STATE  
CONVENTION OF COLORED MEN;  
ASSEMBLED AT GALESBURG, OCTOBER  
16TH - 18TH: CONTAINING THE STATE  
AND NATIONAL ADDRESSES**

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Proceedings of the Illinois State Convention of Colored Men; Assembled at Galesburg, October 16th - 18th: Containing the State and National addresses by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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### ERRATA.

Page 3, line 8, for "was ordered" read "were ordered."

Page 14, after line 36 read

R. DEBAPTISTE,	<i>Chairman.</i>
J. R. TRUSTY,	} <i>Committee.</i>
GEORGE BRENT,	
G. H. HENRY,	
R. HOLLY.	

Page 17, line 40, for "of statistics" read "statistics."

Page 20, line 9, for "people government" read "people a government."

Page 21, line 46, for "unbounded" read "unborned."

Page 32, line 30, for "re-uniting" read "re-writing."

Page 35, line 8, for "lore" read "love."

Page 35, line 39, for "beiter" read "better."

Page 36, line 30, for "American" read "Americon."

1870, Sept. 12. us 10775.50.6

Gift of  
Hon. Chas. Sumner,  
of Boston.  
(A. 76. 1830.)

## PROCEEDINGS.

PURSUANT to a widely circulated call for such an assemblage, a convention of the colored Americans of the State of Illinois, met at the city of Galesburg, on the morning of October 16th, A. D. 1866. The purpose of the body was to thoroughly canvass the subject of the disabilities, educational and political, that dwell upon persons of color in this State, impeding their rightful progress, and to devise and set in motion effective agencies for the permanent removal of the same.

The place of meeting was the lecture-room of the church of the Rev. Edward Beecher, D. D. At ten o'clock the convention was called to order by Mr. Edwin R. Williams, chairman of the Chicago delegation. At his request prayer was pronounced by the Rev. T. Strother, of Cairo. Mr. J. H. Barquette, of Galesburg, was elected temporary chairman, and Mr. Lewis B. White, of Chicago, and Rev. T. Strother, of Cairo, were elected temporary secretaries.

The call of the convention was then read by Joseph Stanley, of Chicago, as follows:

### *To the Colored Men of Illinois:*

A year ago the long and bloody war for the preservation of the Union was terminated. One of its immediate results was the abolition of slavery and the partial recognition of the rights of the colored race. That recognition, however, after a year of discussion, is as yet but partial. The question which still divides the country into two great parties is whether we shall receive, in their entirety, those rights to which we are entitled from the Legislature of the Union down to that of each State. This has been the great point of controversy. And now that we are enabled to express, more fully than ever before, our unqualified opinion about those questions which affect the entire interests of a people who have ever proved loyal to the government of their country, it has been deemed advisable to issue a call for a Convention of the colored men of this State, for the purpose of expressing their views in relation to the present condition of public affairs, and of agreeing upon a course of policy which may enhance the best interests of our people in general, and one which we can unitedly pursue, in order to obtain those God-given rights to which we are entitled, as citizens and men.

Among the questions which will receive the especial attention of the Convention will be, the best course to pursue in order to obtain equal rights for colored men, both at the *ballot-box* and in courts of justice. While relying with unwavering faith upon the genial action of the Congress of the United States, and of the people of the State of Illinois, it is necessary for us to take measures looking to the removal of such disabilities as now affect us by State laws, and without the repeal of which any favorable action on the part of Congress can be of but little avail. And of those invidious features of State legislation in regard to the colored citizen, no one more eminently demands our utmost efforts for its abolition than the proscription under which we labor, so far as educational advantages are concerned. We desire to take strong grounds, to the end that the privileges of a common school education may be shared by us in unison with others, and that we may have an opportunity of proving not only our desire, but our capacity for improvement.

We desire, too, to consider in what manner we may utterly remove those prejudices against us as a people, which still obtain in the minds of so many—prejudices which are the effect of slavery. We desire to make known to all our intention to pursue the even tenor of our way, never obtrusive nor permitting obtrusion from others; trampling on the rights of none, but defending to the uttermost those of ourselves and of our posterity.

And it will be our peculiar duty and our highest pleasure to commemorate the deeds of those colored soldiers who have proven on many a battle-field, in many a weary siege and many a toilsome march, their fitness for defenders of our Republic and for freedom most wide. Pointing to them, as we fondly do, as proof of our devotion to a country that had enslaved us and is still unkind, we will speak of them with pride and with grateful remembrance.

These are among the chief features for which we have issued this call for a State Convention of colored men, to be held on the 16th day of October next, at Galesburg, Illinois; and that there may be a thorough representation of the colored citizens of the State, we desire to impress upon their minds the importance of every city, town and village within its limits appointing delegates to represent them in the Convention.

Any further information may be had on application to the Corresponding Committee, Messrs. L. B. White, G. L. Thomas, E. R. Williams.

Cyrus Richardson, Alton.	John Jones, Chicago.
Edward White, "	G. L. Thomas, "
John J. Byrd, Cairo.	Joseph Stanley, "
T. Strother, "	John James, "
Samuel Witherspoon, Bloomington.	A. Cary, "
Bryant Smith, Shawneetown.	L. B. White, "
B. F. Rodgers, Springfield.	Wm. Baker, "
S. Donegal, "	E. Hawkins, " j
Reuben Armstrong, Rockford.	R. W. Stokes, "
Wylie Walden, "	E. R. Williams, "
J. B. Finchure, Galesburg.	E. C. Froeman, "
J. H. Barquette, "	

All communications can be addressed to

LEWIS B. WHITE,  
Secretary State Central Committee, Box 764, Chicago.

A Committee on Credentials was appointed, consisting of Messrs. S. D. Williams, L. B. White, C. Richardson, A. Pleasants and E. A. Green.

A Committee on Permanent organization was created, comprising the following gentlemen; George L. Thomas, of Chicago, C. S.

Jacobs, of Decatur, B. Smith, of Shawneetown, G. W. Faulkner, of Galesburg, R. Holly, of Bloomington, J. McSmith, of Galena, J. W. Smith, of Tuscola, M. Richardson, of Mercer county, G. H. Denny, of Henry county, E. W. Lewis, of Peoria, H. Hicklin, of Springfield, J. W. Coleman, of Will county, G. T. Fountain, of Adams county, James D. Davis, of Knox county, and Wm. Baker, of Cook county.

This committee of fifteen was ordered to report at half-past two o'clock p. m.

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AFTERNOON SESSION.

The house was called to order at half-past two o'clock, by the chairman. Prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Patterson.

George L. Thomas, chairman of the Committee on Permanent Organization, made the following report:

For President—William Johnson, of Chicago.

“ First Vice President—E. A. Green, of Champaign City.

“ Second Vice President—C. C. Richardson, of Alton.

“ Secretary—R. C. Waring, of Chicago.

“ Assistant Secretary—T. Strother, of Cairo.

“ Treasurer—A. Pleasants, of Adams county.

“ Sergeant at Arms—J. D. Davis, of Galesburg.

The report of the committee was adopted, and the officers elect were introduced to the convention neatly and briefly by Messrs. Joseph Stanley, L. B. Trusty and M. R. Richardson. Brief and appropriate speeches were made by the retiring chairman and the President elect, and the officers entered upon the discharge of their respective duties.

On motion of E. R. Williams, all delegates present without credentials were invited to seats in the convention.

At the instance of Mr. J. H. Barquette, a call of the roll was ordered.

On motion of Rev. J. Dawson, Rev. T. Strother was appointed reporter for the “Christian Recorder,” published at Philadelphia.

On motion of E. R. Williams, a Committee of five on Ways and Means was appointed. The chair selected Messrs. Barquette, Davis, Thomas, S. D. Williams and M. Richardson.

On motion of Mr. Barquette, a Committee of three on Printing was ordered, the chair appointing Messrs. Barquette, S. Richardson and Coleman to comprise it.

On motion of E. R. Williams, the following named gentlemen were elected a Committee on Resolutions: Messrs. Joseph Stanley, S. D. Williams, E. R. Williams, B. Smith, D. Fletcher, C. S. Jacobs and H. Hicklin.

On motion of L. B. White, it was ordered that all resolutions



presented to the convention be referred to the Committee on Resolutions, without debate.

A Committee of seven on Suffrage was, on motion of E. R. Williams, created, composed of Messrs. J. B. Dawson, C. C. Richardson, E. A. Green, G. T. Fountain, J. D. Davis, R. DeBaptiste and R. W. Stokes.

On motion of J. Stanley, a Committee of seven, to present an address on the State of the Country, was elected as follows: R. W. Stokes, of Chicago, J. B. Dawson, of Chicago, C. S. Jacobs, of Decatur, G. T. Fountain, of Quincy, J. H. Barquette, of Galesburg, M. Richardson, of Mercer county, and E. A. Green, of Champaign City.

The committee were ordered to report at three o'clock p. m., on Wednesday, 17th of October instant.

On motion of R. W. Stokes, it was ordered that a committee of five be appointed to prepare an address to the people of the State of Illinois; that they report the same to the house at two o'clock p. m., on the 17th instant; that it be made the order of the day until disposed of, and that Messrs. R. DeBaptiste, J. B. Trusty, George Brent, G. H. Henry, and R. Holly be said committee.

On motion of J. B. Dawson, Messrs. E. R. Williams and T. Strother were added to the Committee on Suffrage.

On motion of R. DeBaptiste, Messrs. Joseph Stanley, George T. Fountain, Walter Coleman, H. Hicklin and C. S. Jacobs were appointed a Committee on the Educational Statistics of the State.

On motion of J. B. Dawson, a Committee of seven on the Moral Status of the Colored People of the State, was ordered. Messrs. J. B. Dawson, R. DeBaptiste, A. Pleasants, J. W. Smith, R. B. Smith, Joseph Faulkner and George Graves were appointed said committee.

On motion of G. L. Thomas, the credentials of J. B. Smith, of Knoxville, were referred to the Committee on Credentials. That body reported favorably upon the matter referred to them, and Mr. Smith was admitted to a seat in the convention.

On motion of George L. Thomas, it was ordered that the morning sessions of the convention commence at half-past nine o'clock, and end at meridian, and that the afternoon session be from two o'clock to five o'clock.

On motion of George L. Thomas, a rule was obtained, allowing no member to speak more than twice upon the same subject, without permission from the chair.

On motion, the convention adjourned to meet at half-past nine o'clock a. m., on Wednesday, 17th.



citizens of the State, to open wide your doors, and admit our children into your public schools and colleges. We appeal to you, in behalf of eight thousand colored boys and girls, with expansive minds, ready and willing to drink from the fountain of literature and learning.

Slaves, many of us have been ; but if you give us those advantages which the Constitution guarantees to all citizens, we shall soon rise in the scale of being so high that it will blush the cheek of many who have spent their golden moments at the shrine of vice and infamy.

Looking at the educational statistics of our State, we find less than one hundred of our colored children in public schools, or less than one in every eighty. How long shall such a state of things exist ; how long will you encourage pauperism, and charge us with having minds not susceptible of culture. Your legislature, less than two years ago, wiped from the escutcheon of our great and noble State, a part of her black code.

Three years ago, you took from your midst twenty-five hundred true and loyal blacks, to help fill up your quota, and your generals led them to a scene of carnage and death. As men and soldiers of Illinois they fought ; as American citizens they died, defending the honor of the State and the government. Believing that the State, the government, and the entire people, irrespective of all political differences, would honor their memory by doing justice in the education of their children, the protection of their widows and orphans, and proving to the world that the genius of the American people is liberty unproscribed to all. How can you hope for success in the establishment of the government on the eternal foundation on which your fathers built, if you persist in denying an education to a persecuted race. This is a world of compensations, and he who would himself be great through the means of education, must not enslave the mind of his fellow-being. Then, fellow citizens, accept the aphorism, and enlarge upon it : say that, as the colored man is now free, he may live a better patriot, a better man and a better christian.

JOSEPH STANLEY,  
*Chairman of Com. on Education,*  
 GEO. T. FOUNTAIN, ADAMS Co.  
 WALTER COLEMAN, WILL    "  
 C. S. JACOBS, MERCER       "  
 H. HICKLIN, SANGAMON     "

The Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, J. Stanley, made, on behalf of that body, the following report, which was adopted.

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

WHEREAS, Taxation without representation is contrary to the genius and spirit of our republican institutions, and

WHEREAS, The colored people of the State of Illinois are taxed for the support of the public schools, and denied, by the laws of the State, the right of sending their children to said schools, therefore,

*Resolved,* That we regard it as a gross usurpation, unjustly shown toward the colored citizens of Illinois, and that this Convention do hereby recommend to the colored people of the State to send their petitions to our legislature, asking for the repeal of said law.

*Resolved,* That our State legislature, having ratified the amendment to the Constitution of the United States, abolishing slavery, and repealing a part of her black code, giving to colored men the right to testify in the courts of justice, must be regarded as still remiss in her duty, until she educates the children of three thousand colored men who helped to fill the quota of the State.