

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF
MERCHANTS FOR THE RELIEF OF
COLORED PEOPLE, SUFFERING
FROM THE LATE RIOTS IN THE
CITY OF NEW YORK**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649196791

Report of the Committee of Merchants for the Relief of Colored People, Suffering from the Late Riots in the City of New York by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

VARIOUS

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF
MERCHANTS FOR THE RELIEF OF
COLORED PEOPLE, SUFFERING
FROM THE LATE RIOTS IN THE
CITY OF NEW YORK**

109

REPORT

OF THE

New York. COMMITTEE OF MERCHANTS

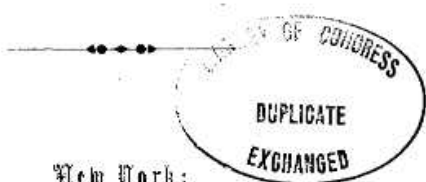
FOR THE

Relief of Colored People,

SUFFERING

FROM THE LATE RIOTS,

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.



New York:

GEORGE A. WHITEHORNE, STEAM PRINTER,

Nos. 119 FULTON & 42 ANN STREETS.

1863.

Relief Committee.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

BENJ. B. SHERMAN,	51 Front Street.
JOHN D. MCKENZIE, Cor. Old Slip and Front	"
JONATHAN STURGES,	125 Front "
GEO. C. COLLINS,	96 Front "
WM. A. BOOTH,	95 Front "
A. F. OCKERSHAUSEN,	19 Rose "
T. C. DOREMUS,	45 Warren "
JACKSON S. SCHULTZ,	343 Pearl "
EDWARD CROMWELL,	30 Front "
RICHARD P. BUCK,	29 South "
WM. H. LEE,	314 Broadway.
HORACE GRAY, JR.,	64 South Street.
WM. E. DODGE,	21 Cliff "
SAML. WILLETS,	303 Pearl "
WM. W. WICKES,	33 Front "
W. ALLEN,	Coenties Slip.
CHAS. E. BEEBE,	149 Front Street.
A. R. WETMORE,	81 Vesey Street.
JOSEPH B. COLLINS,	40 Wall Street.

Who appointed the following

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

JOHN D. MCKENZIE, *Chairman,*
JONATHAN STURGES, *Treasurer,*
GEO. C. COLLINS, *Secretary.*

JACKSON S. SCHULTZ,	JOSEPH B. COLLINS,
A. R. WETMORE,	EDWARD CROMWELL.

By Transfer

NOV 13 1922

Library of Congress
4-25-25

REPORT.

The Executive Committee appointed for the relief of the colored people of New York and the adjacent places, having in a great measure concluded the work assigned to them, would respectfully report to the General Committee appointed by the merchants of New York, and to the contributors to the fund placed at their disposal, that the total amount received to date is \$40,779 08-100, as will appear by the statement of the Treasurer, Mr. Jonathan Sturges.

That this sum of money was sent to the Treasurer by the contributors in prompt response to the simple announcement that it would be needed. That no special appeals were necessary to urge subscriptions, and consequently no commissions were paid to collectors.

Of this amount, \$27,795.56 has already been expended. The balance, \$12,983 52, which the Committee have on hand, they expect to use in protecting those who have lost their property in the late riots, in the prosecuting of their claims against the city, in providing for the widows, orphans, and other dependent members of the families of those who were killed, and in such other ways as they may find will do the most good.

Two methods of action presented themselves to your committee. First; to refrain from relieving any one, until a personal visit had been made to ascertain the facts of the case. Second; to afford some immediate aid upon the best information that could be obtained from the persons applying for assistance, or through the colored pastors we employed. The first would possibly save us from some imposition; the second would afford instant relief, which was absolutely necessary. After fully considering the two plans, we adopted both; the immediate relief plan, and that of personal examination through the colored pastors, and the visitors of the association for the relief of the poor. We are now satisfied that no other course

Ms. A. 9. 2. 1. 13

ONE

would so well have met the emergency, no other plan would have so promptly brought them out of their hiding places in the outskirts of the city and elsewhere—relieved their pressing wants, and encouraged them to seek their accustomed labor.

Probably some unworthy persons have been aided, but may we not hope, that even these may have been raised in their self-respect by the kind words and relief they received at our Central Depot. We aimed to produce a moral effect upon them, as well as to relieve their wants. One thing is certain, that in a few days our streets and wharves were again filled with colored people going about their accustomed work.

In presenting this report it is necessary, in order to give a comprehensive view of the subject, that a copy of the Secretary's minutes of the first meetings of the Merchants should be given.

A preliminary meeting having been held on the previous Saturday, the following are the Minutes of the adjourned meeting, held Monday, July 20th, 1863 :

An adjourned meeting of Merchants, held at McCULLOUGH'S Sales Room, July 20th, 1863, JONATHAN STURGES, Esq., in the Chair. The Chairman opened the meeting with the following remarks :

For the information of those who were not present at the meeting held here on Saturday, it is proper that I should state its origin and object. The meeting was called on the suggestion of several gentlemen in Front Street, at a very short notice, to consider the destitute condition of the colored people of this city, who have been deprived of their homes and their little property, by a mob, during the past week ; to devise means to relieve their immediate wants, and to secure them in their peaceable and honest labor hereafter. I have been forty-one years a merchant in my present location. During this period I have seen a noble race of merchants pass away. I cannot help calling to mind the many acts of charity which they performed during their lives. I hardly need to name them ; you all know them. You know how they sent relief to Southern cities when they were desolated by fire or pestilence ; how they sent ship loads of food to the starving people of Ireland ; this last act of brotherly love we have had the privilege of imitating during the past winter ; and as often as occasion requires, I trust we shall be quick to continue these acts of humanity, thus showing that the race of New York Merchants is not deteriorating. We are now called upon to sympathize with a different class of our fellow men. Those who know the colored people of this city, can testify to their being a peaceable, industrious people, having their own churches, Sunday-schools and charitable Societies ; and that, as a class, they seldom depend upon charity ; they not only labor to support themselves, but to aid those who need aid. This is their general character, and it is

our duty to see that they are protected in their lawful labors, to save themselves from becoming dependent on the charity of the city. We have not come together to devise means for their relief because they are colored people, but because they are, as a class, persecuted and in distress at the present moment. It is not necessary for our present purposes to inquire who the men are who have persecuted, robbed and murdered them. We know they are bad men, who have not done as they would be done by. Let us not follow their example; let us be quick to relieve those who are now in trouble, and should we ever find those who have persecuted the negroes in like trouble, let us be quick to relieve them also, and thus obey the injunction of our Divine Master, "Bless those who persecute you."

Mr. J. D. MCKENZIE, in behalf of the Committee appointed July 18th, offered the following preamble and resolutions, viz :

Whereas, The condition of the colored people of this city, who have recently been deprived of their kindred by murderers, of their homes by fire, and of their accustomed means of support; having been forcibly driven therefrom by an infuriated mob, without cause or provocation, is such as not only to excite the sympathy of every good member of the community, of all parties and creeds; but also demands and should receive prompt pecuniary assistance and aid. That this may be effectually accomplished, We do hereby

Resolve, That a Committee of five Merchants be appointed by the Chairman of this Meeting, who, with the Treasurer of the Fund to be collected, as a member of the same, shall have full power to receive, collect and disburse funds in the purchase of necessary food and clothing, and in relieving the wants of the suffering colored population.

Resolved, That to said Committee, are hereby granted full powers to assist all colored people whose property has been destroyed by the mob, in making the needful proof of the facts to obtain redress from the County, under the Statute Laws of the State of New York, and that they have authority to collect funds and employ Counsel for that purpose.

Resolved, That we will exert all the influence we possess to protect the colored people of this city, in their rights to pursue, unmolested, their lawful occupations, and we do hereby call upon the proper authorities to take immediate steps to afford them such protection.

Resolved, That we will not recognize or sanction any distinction of persons, of whatever nation, religion or color, in their natural rights, to labor peaceably in their vocations, for the support of themselves and those dependent upon them; and that, so far as we are able, to contribute to the wants and necessities of our fellow men it shall be done without reference to these distinctions. And further, that what we now propose doing for the colored man, we shall ever be ready to do for any class of our fellow men, under like circumstances.

The meeting was addressed at some length by Mr. J. D. MCKENZIE upon the subject matter of the Resolutions, and, briefly

by RICHARD WARREN, Esq., REV. MR. LOOMIS, MESSRS. EDWARD CROMWELL, A. F. DOW, J. S. SCHULTZ, and others, when they were unanimously passed.

On motion, JONATHAN STURGES, Esq., was elected treasurer of the fund proposed to be raised.

MESSRS. B. R. SHERMAN, GEO. C. COLLINS, J. D. MCKENZIE, WM. A. BOOTH, A. F. OCKERSHAUSEN, were appointed by the Chairman as committee of five under the resolutions.

On motion, the Committee were authorized to add to their numbers at their discretion.

On motion, the Chairman and Secretary of the meeting were added to the Committee.

Subscriptions to the fund were then called for, when MR. EDWARD CROMWELL stated that he was authorized to hand to the Treasurer a check for \$800, on account of the fund subscribed by members of the Produce Exchange, and added that this was by no means the total of their probable contributions to the fund. Subscriptions to the amount of \$6,500, were recorded before the meeting adjourned.

On motion of WM. A. BOOTH, Esq., it was

Resolved, That a copy of the Resolutions adopted by this meeting, be furnished to Major General DIX, and that he be requested to give notice to the colored people to return to their usual employments, with the assurance that they shall be properly protected.

On motion, adjourned.

On Tuesday Mr. Vincent Colyer was present by invitation of Mr. Sturges, and addressed the Committee at some length, giving the result of his experience as Missionary among the Blacks of North Carolina and elsewhere, and suggesting a plan for the management of the fund so as to avoid fraud and secure the greatest benefit to those for whom the money was subscribed.

Mr. Colyer was authorized by the Executive Committee to secure a suitable central office, and was appointed Secretary in charge of the same, and a detailed report from him, is herewith submitted.

JOHN D. MCKENZIE, *Chairman*.

Report of the Secretary.

Driven by the fear of death at the hands of the mob, who the week previous had, as you remember, brutally murdered, by hanging on trees and lamp posts several of their number, and cruelly beaten and robbed many others, burning and sacking their houses and driving nearly all from the streets, alleys and docks upon which they had previously obtained an honest though humble living—these people had been forced to take refuge on Blackwell's Island, at Police Stations, on the outskirts of the city, in the swamps and woods back of Bergea, New Jersey, at Weeksville and in the barns and out-houses of the farmers of Long Island and Morrisania. At these places were scattered some 5,000 homeless and helpless men, women, and children.

The first great point to be gained was the restoring of the confidence of the colored people in the community, from which they had been driven. To do this a central depot was to be established to which they should be invited to come and receive aid with the fullest assurance that they should be protected.

Temporary aid might be sent them to their residences, as was done through the hand of Rev. Mr. Dennison, and through the Society for improving the condition of the poor.

This plan met your approval, and that evening, Tuesday, July 21st, I was instructed to look up an office and announce in the morning papers the contemplated purpose, and I did so.

On Wednesday, the present office, No. 350 Fourth Street, was secured, vacated by its former occupants, cleansed and opened for