

[Last evening a large and attentive congregation was assembled in Shiloh Presbyterian Church, Prince Street, to hear an appeal in behalf of the persecuted colored citizens of the Free States, by the Rev. Henry Highland Garnet pastor of the church.]

He commenced his discourse by setting toth the disadvantages under which his people in the Free States were laboring, the insults and the assaults to which they were subjected by the prejudices of the dominant class. He said if the question is asked by what agencies has this alarming and discreditable state of things been produced? By what power has one class of community been arrayed against another—the strong against the weak—the any against the few? You all know what influences have consummated the sad work. Enemies have been busy among—enemies to a weak and oppressed people—enemies to law and order, and enemies to the Government under which they live, and to the principles of the Christian religion. It cannot be denied that a limited portion of the newspaper press in this city, and a few in other sections of the country, have been the principal instigators of this murderous mob movement. Foremost in this seditious and bloody crusade are the N. Y. Herald, and the N. Y. Express. He described the slanderous and mischievous course of all such journals, and charged that whatever the consequences might be, their conductors would be held responsible. He continued: Brethren I

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call you to bear witness, that this crusade was commenced against us simultaneously with the commencement of the rebellion. Mark that. Now, it is my opinion that all this is an important part of the programme of this bloody Secession drama. Let me tell you why I believe this. The sagacious leaders of the Rebellion knew that their success depended upon these three things. 1. The services of their slaves to feed their army and build their fortifications, and to [p]erform all other necessary labor. Second, the division of Northern sentiment in regard to the war.— Third, To create so strong a prejudice against the free colored people of the North, as to keep them out of the Union army. And this plan has been thus far successfully carried out. Their Northern emissaries have been as devoted to their duty, as the not more active slaveholding traitors. He appealed to his people amid all their trials, to be calm cautious and manly in whatever they said or did. He urged them to nobly bear insult and vituperation, and to remember that words cannot harm a noble mind, although they may wound the feelings. A gallant and dignified bearing would do more to disarm malice, and to make friends than an attempt to avenge every trifling insult,

In reference to the character of his people he said, we do not claim for ourselves perfection, yet I affirm, and am sustained by statistics, that we are as industrious, and sober,

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and as provident, as the corresponding classes of our white fellow citizens. The most of our people belong to the laboring classes, and it is seen by our school reports that we have a larger number of children in the public schools of this city than the same class have among the whites. It is proverbial that we have but few beggars among us, and we have fewer persons of our race supported by public charity in proportion to our number, than any other class of people. Driven as we have been, by the power of caste, and negro-hate from nearly every lucrative employment yet we live comfortably and respectably.— With our scanty earnings we support our churches and institutions of benevolence[.]

We declare, without fear of contradiction, that we are loyal to the Government under which we were born, and under which we live, and have never failed as a class to obey the laws of the land.

At the very commencement of the rebellion, thousands of our men offered their services to the government, and although in every instance they have been rejected with scorn and insults, many from this and other congregations in the city have joined the army as menials rather than not be permitted to go at all. There are to-day in this city and throughout the north and south tens of thousands who are ready and anxious to peril their lives in defense of the Government

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