

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Colored National Convention,

HELD IN

FRANKLIN HALL, SIXTH STREET, BELOW ARCH,

PHILADELPHIA,

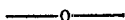
OCTOBER 16th, 17th and 18th,

1855.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE CONVENTION.

SALEM, NEW JERSEY:
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1856.

APPENDIX.



COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CONVENTION

29 Sixth Avenue, New York, October 15, 1855.

To the Chairman of the National Convention at Philadelphia :

As a member of the New York Delegation, I deeply regret that circumstances unforeseen and beyond my control prevent me from taking my seat in your Assembly. Be assured, however, sir, that I am cordially with you in the object of this great meeting. I well remember, sir, to have been a member of the 1st, 2d, and 3d National Conventions of our people, held in the City of Brotherly Love, (held severally) in the years 1831, '32 and '33. Those were glorious gatherings, where our Bowerses, Sipkinses, Hamiltons, Jinnings, Shads, Pecks, Morrells, Whippers and Bells were chief men among our brethren; and in my humble opinion it was a great mistake on our part when, in 1834, we abandoned our National Convention for a mode of operation which disappointed us. But it is not too late to return to the good old path;—better late than never. I say, then, sir, let this be the beginning of a new series of National Conventions of our people. The time has fully come when a most vigorous and uncompromising stand must be made against the slave power on this vast Continent. We are competent to resist it; and, “we must do or die!”

The population of this Continent ranges between 50 and 60 millions. Nearly seven millions of that number are of African descent.

The Governments of this Continent, about 40 in number, are prevailingly Republican or liberal monarchies, or provinces under the government of liberal monarchies. Now, sir, the liberal parties of all the parties and races of this Continent must combine in order to withstand the slave power of *this* Republic. Nay, by such a combination alone can that huge power be overthrown. That power is making headway against all races; hence, of course, all races must combine against it.

Let there be a grand fusion Western Continent Anti-slavery

Extension Convention held. Let it be held at some place or point where gentlemen of talent from the British, French, Spanish and Danish Dominions, and also from Mexico and Central America—I say let such a Convention be held, and let it be held at some point where civilized law and order prevail—Jamaica, Hayti—and let it be a great Congress of Liberty, to be attended by all the friends of Liberty, who will unite to oppose the slave power of this Continent. Sir, this is a grand idea, worthy to be entertained by this Convention; and, sir, why not appoint a committee to mature this idea?

I tell you in this Convention, that if ever we compete successfully with the slave power of this Republic, we must now act with all the oppressed and insulted races.

Where are Walker and Kinney? Trampling upon the necks of portions of the inoffensive inhabitants of Central and South America.

I am sorry, sir, that the same causes which prevent my presence with you, also prevent me from elaborating these views.

In regard to the report of the religious state of the Colored people, which I believe was assigned me at the meeting of our State Council, I will state that my esteemed Baptist Brother, Rev. James Leonard of Rhode Island, is preparing a book on that subject, embracing all denominations. Mr. L. is a scholar of no mean order. The subject is safe in his hands. I have placed at his disposal such materials as I had. I commend his book.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, in your deliberations remember PASSMORE WILLIAMSON. "I SPEAK AS UNTO WISE MEN—JUDGE YE WHAT I SAY!"

Yours, as ever,

J. W. C. PENNINGTON,
Pastor of Shiloh Pres. Church, N. Y.