

COLORED PEOPLE OF MEMPHIS CELEBRATING THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

According to previous notice, the colored people met at the middle Baptist church on Second street, on the 1st of January, 1864, at ten o'clock, A. M., to read and analyze the President's proclamation on freedom. The Rev. David Randolph was called to the chair, and the following gentlemen were appointed Vice Presidents, viz: James Hicks, George W. Preston, Serg't. Louis Murray and Warren Brown. H. N. Rankin was appointed Secretary, assisted by Serg't. John C. Scurlock, Henry Sailler and Charles C. Dickerson. The following resolutions were then read by Serg't. Scurlock, and unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That we hail with feelings of joy and gratitude to Almighty God, that we have the exalted privilege of meeting together, for the purpose of offering tribute and honor to one of the most magnificent and brilliant chapters written in the nineteenth century.

Resolved, That we greet the dawn of this beautiful and ever memorable day; and we trust that our children will cherish it until truth and honor shall cease to be revered among the civilized nations of the earth.

Resolved, That the respect to his excellency, the President of the United States, and the admiration we cherish for the gallant army and navy that have borne their glittering arms, backed by their courageous hearts, in triumph over hundreds of battle-fields, calls upon us to-day to pledge ourselves as colored men to fill the ranks made vacant by our colored brothers, who have fallen so bravely upon the various fields of strife.

Resolved, That we recommend every colored man, capable of performing military duty, both North and South, to enlist forthwith in the army and navy of the United States, where he can successfully perform his duty to his God, his country, and his fellow-men.

Resolved, As this is our country, and we are citizens of the United States, in the eloquent language of Attorney General Bates, therefore we are willing to defend them with life and limb; and after protecting them with our guns, we humbly pray God that there may be generosity enough left to protect us in our native land.

Resolved, That we recommend the colored people everywhere in the United States to stand by the Government, to be true to the stars and stripes.

Resolved, That we recommend the benevolent associations of the North to send us teachers, who are known to be our true and devoted friends.

Resolved, That we recommend the teachers to bring their tents with them, ready for erection in the field, by the roadside, or in the fort, and not to wait for magnificent houses to be erected in time of war.

Resolved, That we are highly gratified with the appellation by which the colored soldiers are addressed by their officers, viz: *men*; and we urge the colored men in all places, at all times, and under all circumstances, to cease using that vulgar phrase, "nigger," a phrase not used by the higher-toned classes, but by the more vulgar and uncultivated.

Resolved, That we are in favor of renting a building forthwith in the city of Memphis, to be used as a school-house for the colored children, as we do not deem it expedient to build one at present.

Resolved, That a committee of ten be appointed to memorialize Congress relative to certain matters pertaining to the amelioration of our condition.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the *Memphis Bulletin*, *Cincinnati Gazette*, *New York Tribune*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Anglo-African*, and the *Boston Liberator*.

After listening to a few short and eloquent remarks made by H. N. Rankin, Sergeant Scurlock, Joseph Colwell, and Henry Sailler, on motion of Sergeant Scurlock, adjourned.

DAVID RANDOLPH, *Chairman*.

H. N. RANKIN, *Secretary*.