

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
STATE CONVENTION OF COLORED MEN
OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE,

WITH THE ADDRESSES OF THE CONVENTION TO THE
WHITE LOYAL CITIZENS OF TENNESSEE, AND
THE COLORED CITIZENS OF TENNESSEE.

HELD AT NASHVILLE, TENN.,

August 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th, 1865.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION:

DANIEL WADKINS, SR. NELSON WALKER. RANSOM HARRIS.

NASHVILLE, TENN.:
PRINTED AT THE DAILY PRESS AND TIMES JOB OFFICE.

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OF THE

STATE JOURNAL OF HONORED MEN

OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

WITH THE ADDRESS OF THE GOVERNOR TO THE
LEGISLATURE, AND
THE RECORD OF THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

PRINTED AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

1887

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

EDWARD W. HARRIS, JR., MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

PRINTED AT THE DAILY PRESS AND PUBLISHED BY THE

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PREFACE.

The Central Committee being appointed by the State Convention of Colored Men at its recent session for the purpose of completing the unfinished business of said Convention, and to constitute a medium through which a communication with every county and district of the State may be carried on, deem it necessary to premise a few things. First, it should be ever kept in mind that we met for the first time in Convention, and consequently were without experience; and, secondly, having just emerged from the degraded and deplorable condition of slavery, were not in the possession of that knowledge of parliamentary usage and general literature that should be possessed by every loyal American citizen. A proper regard for these facts will constitute a sufficient apology for all the imperfections observable in its proceedings. So to our friends we wish to say, that while we did the best we could, we will try to improve ourselves so that we will be able to do better the next time; and to those who are not our friends, we will say that persons who are opposed to the freedom, education and equality before the law of all loyal citizens, irrespective of race or color, do by that fact ignore the word of God, and we deem it a waste of time to try by *words* to convince them of their error, but we will try and convince them by our *conduct*.

But before dismissing this thought we may be permitted to say that, in our humble judgment, it is no very great recommendation to a person's head or heart to oppose colored people having an equal chance with other people, and then burlesque their proceedings and laugh at their ignorance. Where is the whiskey-drinking common blackguard that can't do that? But if there is any truth in the teachings of the Bible, the poor, ignorant and unfortunate are the legitimate objects of care and kindness on the part of those who are more fortunate. But we dismiss this thought with this simple query: who made us black or colored? who made us degraded and ignorant?

Having said enough on that subject we now proceed to close this introductory by laying down what we believe to be the proper mode of procedure in every county in the State. There should be established at the county seat in every county, a County Committee with four officers, namely: a Chairman, a

Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary and a Treasurer, and they should have a Constitution by which they should be governed. In addition to the County Committees, there should be established in every civil district, if necessary, (the people themselves must judge of that,) a Committee with its proper officers, which should be a Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer—the District Committee to communicate with the County Committees, and the County Committees with the Central Committee, and thus have a perfect league. Go to work, friends, and let us hear from you.

The Central Committee being appointed by the State Convention of Colored Men at its present session for the purpose of conducting the anti-slavery business of said Convention, and to establish a system through which a communication with every county and district of the State may be carried on, it is necessary to present a few things that should be kept in mind that we may in the first place, in connection and consequently work without expending and expending, having just emerged from the darkest and deplorable condition of slavery, were not in the possession of that knowledge or practicality which would enable us to do so. We should be possessed by every loyal American citizen. A purpose against these things will constitute a self-contradiction. We all the imperfections observable in its proceedings. So we can think we wish to say that while we did the best we could, we will try to improve ourselves so that we will be able to do better the next time and to those who are not yet convinced we will say that persons who are opposed to the free discussion and equality before the law of all human beings, irrespective of race or color, do by that fact ignore the words of God and we deem it a waste of time to try to convince them of their error, but we will try and convince them by our conduct.

But before dismissing this thought we may be permitted to say that in our humble judgment it is no very great recommendation to a person a head or heart to oppose colored people merely to equal chance with other people, and then burden us with preaching and laugh at their ignorance. We know that we are exhibiting common blackguard that can't do that. But if there is any credit in the conduct of the Bible, the best of men and women are the last minute objects of our admiration and kindness on the part of those who are more fortunate. Let us discuss this subject with this simple query, who looks as black or colored who make us degraded and ignorant?

If every and everything that subject we now proceed to discuss this subject, by saying that we believe to be the proper mode of procedure in every county in the State. There should be established in the county seat in every county a County Committee with four officers, namely: a Chairman, a

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
STATE CONVENTION OF COLORED MEN.

FIRST DAY—MORNING SESSION.

NASHVILLE, August 7, 1865.

Pursuant to the call issued May 27th, 1865, the Convention of Colored Men met at St. John's Chapel, A. M. E. Church, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The Convention was called to order by Abram Smith, of Davidson county. After some explanation by Mr. Nelson Walker, of Davidson county, the call being read—when M. J. R. Gentle, of Knox county, was elected Chairman *pro tem.*, and Thomas J. White, of Maury county, Secretary. Elder N. G. Merry, of Davidson county, then addressed the Throne of Grace.

Daniel Wadkins, Sr., of Davidson, moved that a committee of one from each division of the State be appointed on Permanent Organization.

H. N. Rankin, of Shelby, moved to amend by making the committee of one from each county.

Considerable discussion ensued. After which the motion of Mr. Wadkins was lost, as was, also, the amendment of Mr. Rankin.

Richard Harris, of Davidson county, moved that a committee of three from each division of the State be appointed.

Which was adopted, and the following gentlemen were appointed the committee:

For East Tennessee—A. McKinney, of Hawkins; H. Alexander, of Knox, and F. Maxwell, of Washington.

For Middle Tennessee—Ransom Harris, of Davidson; J. T. Raper, of Maury, and N. B. Frierson, of Rutherford.

For West Tennessee—H. N. Rankin, J. W. Jones, and Warner Madison, of Shelby.

While the committee were absent, the Rev. Mr. Shepherd, Chaplain of the 17th U. S. Colored Infantry, was called upon to address the Convention. He responded in well-timed and earnest words of sympathy, encouragement and advice to the

delegates for prudence and kindness in their deliberations, and to the audience for good order during the proceedings. In closing the Chaplain expressed his gratification at being present, and said for twenty years he had labored for the good of the slave and for the freedom of all men.

A. Griffin, of Smith county, was then called for. Mr. G. is one of the very few Southern white men who, outgrowing the prejudices of race and condition, stands for the inalienable rights of man. His remarks were earnest and sincere, and warmly received.

Sergt. H. J. Maxwell, 2d Battery, U. S. Col. L. A., was then introduced. The Sergeant made an eloquent speech, in which he struck the keynote of the occasion. He was there as an American, claiming the inalienable rights of a man. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness were his prerogatives. Life and liberty meant to share in the Government by which they were protected and the right to live anywhere on the continent. Should not these rights be the rallying theme of the Convention. By this music we march to victory. We shall be heard before Congress and before the Legislature. We come here for principles, and there will be no dissension. We want the rights guaranteed by the Infinite Architect. For these rights we labor; for them we will die. We have gained one—the uniform is its badge. We want two more boxes, beside the cartridge box—the ballot-box and the jury box. We shall gain them. The Government of this nation will not prove false to its plighted faith. It proclaimed freedom, and we shall have that in fact. It will not foreswear itself. Let us all work faithfully unto the end.

The Rev. Mr. Merry followed Sergt. Maxwell in allusion to the former enjoyment of suffrage by free colored men of Tennessee. He named, then in Convention, who had voted for Gen. Jackson for President—the Rev. Edmund Jones and Andrew Tait. The reverend gentleman proceeded to urge harmony in council and advise that all talk be directed to stir the heart to action, and not influence the tongue to noise.

The Rev. James Lynch, of Baltimore, Missionary in South Carolina and Georgia, responded to a call, and in a most eloquent and stirring speech spoke of the rights which had already been achieved, and those which were yet to be gained. The speaker made telling hits, and kept the audience thoroughly awakened. Among other things he said:

We are engaged in a serious task; we have met here to impress upon the white men of Tennessee, of the United States, and of the world, that we are part and parcel of the American Republic. For four years this country has been involved in war. This war, while it has decided the permanency of the nation, has not been without its influence upon us, and by its operations the shackles have been broken from the limbs of our race in America. In pursuance of the great

work thus begun, we are here, by our counsels and by humble petition, to secure for ourselves the full recognition of our rights as men. We make no account of the wrongs and oppressions of the past, but would act for the future. We cherish no hostility to the whites; we love them, as we ever did, and if they be loyal men, we love the Southern man even better than the Northern. We simply ask for those inalienable rights which are declared inalienable. Why should we not have them? In the past struggle, when the nation stood trembling upon the verge of the precipice, the black man came to the rescue, his manhood was recognized in that hour of national trial, and why? From necessity—and I tell you, my hearers, that necessity will secure us our full recognition as freemen and citizens of this glorious republic. We were needed to fill up the army, we were needed to supply the place of copperhead conscripts who had no stomach for the fight. Senator Saulsbury, of Delaware, a drunken scoundrel, [here don't misunderstand me, I do not wish to abuse any officer of the Government, but as he was understood to belong more to the Confederacy, I will speak of him,] said the whole negro race of America could be swept from the earth without loss; but even he found use for us, and the question of political power in this country will soon present another necessity which will give us the ballot-box. There has been by implication unfriendly legislation in Tennessee, but Tennessee, proud and noble as she is, has a master, and that master is the United States. That master has decided that we are entitled to our oaths. The Freedmen's Courts will hear us when we swear for the maintenance of our rights.

The Committee on Permanent Organization made their report.

Pending action on the report after its reception, the Convention adjourned until 3 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Rev. Edmund Jones, of Sumner county.

Minutes read and approved.

The report of the Committee on Organization was rejected.

Richard Harris, of Davidson, moved to elect the officers *viva voce*.

Which was adopted, and the following officers were then elected:

President—Nelson Walker, of Davidson.

Vice Presidents—Warner Madison, of Shelby; Henry Rowley, of McMinn, and James Mason, of Knox.

Secretaries—Abram Smith, of Davidson; Ferdinand Maxwell, of Washington, and Anthony Motley, of Shelby.

Mr. Walker, after taking the Chair, returned his thanks for the honor conferred upon him, and pledging himself to preside over the deliberations with the best of his ability, asking the delegates and audience for good order during the proceedings.

Daniel Wadkins, Sr., of Davidson, moved that a committee of nine—three from each division of the State—be appointed on Credentials.

Motion adopted, and the following delegates were appointed:

Middle Tennessee—N. G. Merry, Richard Harris, and Ransom Harris.

West Tennessee—H. N. Rankin, A. Motley, and J. W. Jones.

East Tennessee—A. McKinney, H. Alexander, and Sergeant Hardison.

Daniel Wadkins, of Davidson, moved that a committee of three on Rules be appointed, and the following delegates were appointed: James T. Rapier, of Maury; Daniel L. Lapsley, of Davidson, and Sergeant G. A. Griffith, 14th U. S. C. T.

A. McTeer, of Blount, moved that a committee of three be appointed to wait upon Brig. Gen. C. B. Fisk and Gov. W. G. Brownlow and ask them to address us during the session.

Motion prevailed, and the following delegates were appointed the committee: Anthony Carter, of Bradley; E. D. Livingston, of Knox, and A. McTeer, of Blount.

After considerable discussion, it was determined to hold evening sessions for speaking, and the following gentlemen were announced as speakers for the evening: H. N. Rankin, of Shelby; James T. Rapier, of Maury; M. J. R. Gentle, of Knox; Sergeant G. A. Griffith, 14th U. S. C. T., and Daniel Wadkins, Sr., of Davidson.

On motion of A. N. C. Williams, of Williamson, the Convention adjourned until 9 o'clock, A. M., Tuesday.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment, President Walker in the Chair.

Prayer by Rev. Anthony Carter, of Bradley county.

The minutes of the preceeding session were read and approved.

The Committee on Credentials not having reported, Daniel Wadkins, Sr., of Davidson, moved that the President appoint a Marshal for the Convention.

Motion adopted, and the President appointed Mr. James Chavous, of Davidson county, Marshal.

Daniel Wadkins, Sr., of Davidson, moved that the President call on any minister he may see fit to open the Convention with prayer.

Motion prevailed.

James T. Rapier, Chairman of the Committee on Rules, reported, and, with some slight amendment, the report was adopted.

H. J. Maxwell, of Battery A, 2d Light Artillery, moved that the following named gentlemen be honorary members: Rev. Charles Burch, Rev. Samuel Lowery, Abram Smith, Rev. Nelson McGavock, and David A. Cockrell.

T. J. White, of Maury, moved that Arthur Young, of Maury county, be an honorary member.

Isaac Minter and R. Alexander, of Shelby, were made honorary members; also, Braxton James, of Rutherford, Andrew Tait, of Davidson, and Rev. James Lynch, of Maryland.

The Committee on Credentials then presented the following report:

TO THE CONVENTION:

In compliance with the instructions given us by your honorable body, that the Committee on Credentials should impartially consider the claims of all announcing themselves as delegates, your Committee have the honor to report that they have entered upon the discharge of their duties with the determination to act upon their best judgment, "with malice toward none, but charity toward all." Being thus actuated, your Committee is of the opinion that, for the sake of harmony and to prevent any unnecessary discussion, that it will be your duty to admit all delegates who had presented credentials, and all other delegates who claim to have been properly elected who had no credentials, but can bring proper evidence that they were elected by a constituency.

In recommending this course your Committee know that they are departing from customary rules in like cases, but at the same time they do not believe that the departure, all things considered, would prove detrimental to the cause in which we are engaged. We all have one common aim and one common object to accomplish. This being true, then, we respectfully ask if it is not likely that more harm would result from the rejection of gentlemen, said to have been fairly elected, than would result from admitting all.

There are gentlemen claiming seats which are contested. But as you deal with one, you should deal with all. Therefore for the good of all, we respectfully ask that you exclude none.

However, we do not propose that the gentleman from the Thirteenth District be entitled to vote, or eligible to hold office in this Convention. Respectfully submitted.

N. G. MERRY,
 RICHARD HARRIS,
 RANSOM HARRIS,
 A. McKINNEY,
 H. ALEXANDER,
 S. HARDISON,
 A. MOTLEY,
 J. W. JONES,
 H. N. RANKIN.

Committee on Credentials.

On motion of Warner Madison, of Shelby, the Convention adjourned until 2 o'clock, P. M.

SECOND DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention met according to adjournment, President Walker in the chair.

Prayer by Rev. John Powell, of Battery A., 2d Light Artillery.

Minutes of the forenoon session were read and approved, after which the delegates names were called, and the Convention declared fully organized.

ROLL OF DELEGATES.

Maury County.—James T. Rapier, Thomas J. White, John Lockridge, Jackson Thompson.

Rutherford.—N. B. Frierson, Braxton James.

Cannon.—Washington Fugitt.

Montgomery.—Charles Beaumont.

Bradley.—Anthony Carter.

Shelby.—H. N. Rankin, Anthony Motley, Warner Madison and J. W. Jones.

Williamson.—Allen N. G. Williams.

Washington.—Ferdinand Maxwell.

Smith.—Richard Letchford, A. L. Gordon, J. M. Marchbanks, James Caruthers.

Lincoln.—Willis Myers, Charles Russell.

Franklin.—Levi Trimble, R. H. Singleton.

Giles.—T. A. Thornton, Willis Bramlett, Neil Brown, L. J. Johnson, Lewis Brown, Danger Rhodes, Thomas Abernathy, Henry Webb, Orange Jones.

Bedford.—J. J. McEroy, George Eakin, G. W. Tillman.

Wilson.—Osborne Green, Nathan Doaks, Lewis Waters, Joseph Smith, Silas Smith, Quiler Turner.

Hamilton.—J. C. Strickland, George Caldwell, H. H. Houston, C. P. Letcher.

Sumner.—Edmund Jones, Columbus Johnson, H. W. Kee, H. Bowers.

McMinn.—L. H. Mazeek, Henry Rowley, Charles King, Henry Hoyle.

Knox.—M. J. R. Gentle, Abram Ford, James Mason, E. D. Livingston, Henderson Alexander.

Hawkins.—Alfred McKinney.

Meigs.—Fowler Phillips.

Blount.—Charles C. Cobb, A. McTeer.

Battery A. 2d Light Artillery, U. S. C. T.—H. J. Maxwell, John L. Brown, John Powell, Henry Lacy.

Fifteenth Regiment, U. S. C. T.—G. W. Reynolds, J. Pillow, Owen Grundy, Taylor Turner, C. H. Barnett, John H. Jackson.

Fourteenth Regiment, U. S. C. T.—G. A. Griffith, Henry Thompson, S. Hardison, Thos. Ellison.

Seventeenth Regiment, U. S. C. T.—J. Houston, J. T. Johnson, W. Myers, W. H. Forrest, Dolphine Pickett.

First Regiment, U. S. C. Artillery, Heavy.—Allen Garnett, Hutsel Clark, E. G. Brown, Robert Johnson, Thos. Lillard, Charles Smith.

Thirteenth Regiment, U. S. C. T.—Harding Anderson.

Davidson.—Daniel Wadkins, Sr., Frank Parrish, Nelson Walker, Richard Harris, Nelson G. Merry, Ransom Harris, Richard Howard, James Cafferey, Edward Woods, William Miller, Alfred Menefee, William Sumner, R. L. Knowles, Jordan Bransford, Jerry S. Stothard, Daniel L. Lapsley, Daniel Brown.

N. G. Merry, of Davidson, moved that a business committee be appointed, consisting of three delegates from each division of the State.

Motion prevailed, and the following delegates were announced as the committee: Daniel Brown, of Davidson, Thomas J. White, of Maury, T. A. Thornton, of Giles, M. J. R. Gentle, of Knox, C. P. Letcher, of Hamilton, A. McKinney, of Hawkins, H. N. Rankin, A. Motley, J. W. Jones, of Shelby.

A. McTeer, of Blount, Chairman of the Committee appointed to wait upon Governor Brownlow and General Fisk, to request the favor of an address, reported that Governor Brownlow's feeble health prevented him from making an address on the occasion. General Fisk signified his acceptance of the invitation.

The report accepted and the committee discharged.

Daniel Wadkins, Sr., of Davidson, introduced the following resolution, which, after being fully discussed, was adopted:

WHEREAS, we, in Convention assembled, in order to delibe-

rate, as far as we are able, upon the present condition and future prospects of the colored people of Tennessee; and where, as, it is expedient, that in all our deliberations we should put forth to them our sentiments.

Resolved, That we will publish an address to them and cause it to be circulated throughout the State.

WHEREAS, the petition presented by the colored people of Tennessee, to the Legislature thereof, has not been disposed of by that body, as we understand, because they do not know the sentiments of their constituents—therefore, be it

Resolved, That we publish an appeal to the loyal white citizens of Tennessee, upon the subject matter contained in the said petition. Inasmuch as the Federal Government has called for our assistance in putting down the late iniquitous rebellion, and acknowledged not only our humanity and right to freedom, but our just claim to all other rights of citizens under the Government; therefore be it

Resolved, That we protest against the Congressional delegation from Tennessee being received into the Congress of the United States, if the Legislature of Tennessee does not grant the petition before it, prior to December 1, 1865.

On motion of N. G. Merry, of Davidson, a Financial Committee was appointed, consisting of the following delegates: Frank Parrish, of Davidson, A. N. C. Williams, of Williamson, L. H. Mazeek, of McMinn, Quiler Turner, of Wilson, Sergeant G. W. Reynolds, of 15th U. S. C. Infantry. Pending a discussion on finance, Brigadier-General Fisk entered the house, amid loud cheering and applause. President Walker introduced General Fisk to the Convention, when he spoke as follows:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: My fellow-citizens I didn't come to make a speech. I came to hear you talk. I came to hear what the colored people of the State of Tennessee had to say for themselves. The race to which I belong have been talking and talking for many years, and you have had no opportunity to talk very much. It gave me great joy when I learned that the colored people of the State were about to convene, that delegates were coming from different counties, and that you were here to give expression to your views. There was a time when this could not be done; but to use a common phrase, "Times ain't as they used to was." You could not do this four years ago, could you? A great change has taken place since that day. You are no longer slaves. I come before you as your friend—as a representative of the power of this great Government—standing here with authority to say to you that I am your friend, sent by the Government to aid you; and, by the blessing of God, I will never shrink from discharging my duty. The passing away of slavery has opened a new era, and it becomes necessary that the Government should do something to aid you in passing

from slavery to freedom, for the good of the white race as well as yours. And, therefore, the Freedmen's Bureau was established by an act of Congress of the 3d of last March.

Everything pertaining to the freedmen of the States that had been in insurrection was committed to this Bureau. Officers were chosen for it. General Howard the one-armed soldier, was placed at the head of it. There were subordinate officers for different States. I was chosen to look to the interests of Kentucky, Tennessee, Northern Alabama, and parts of Georgia and Mississippi.

After the organization in May, officers went to their different districts. I came to Nashville. I found that such an institution was necessary. I felt sad as I looked out upon your people and found that they had but few friends to lean upon, and but little justice for the negro, though slavery no longer existed.

(General Fisk here read interesting extracts from the circular before him and made comments upon it. The circular has already been published.)

I have just spent an hour in discussing this circular with an old slave master of Tennessee, who, after fighting against us for four years, refused to die in the last ditch. He said the circular was just right, and that he and other old slaveholders would take hold and help. It was Gideon J. Pillow.

We intend to establish in every county in the State an agent of the Freedmen's Bureau. He will either be an officer of the army or the right kind of a citizen. We want just men, in whom you all confide. I will be glad if you will think over who will be proper men to place at your county seats. You will be, as it were, staff officers of mine to aid me in carrying out this work. You must be industrious; I don't know why you are not worth as much free as slave. Alluding to the change of circumstances he said: "Work land upon shares as much as possible. This is a popular mode of doing things. You must fulfil your contract and I will see that the landlord fulfils his. They must not only have freedom, but homes of their own—thirty or forty acres, with tools, mules, cottages and school houses, etc. That is the picture for the future. I shall move in it just as quickly as possible. I would like to settle 10,000 before the first of next January. I ask fair play, and fair play I shall have. Compulsory labor will not be tolerated. Differences will be adjudicated by officers and agents of this Bureau, except in places where civil courts receive the testimony of colored people. They will also receive the same punishment for crime that the laws provide for the white man in like cases. It became necessary to establish a Freedmen's Court here, and we have a court at my headquarters, where a poor man can obtain redress. I have volunteered to be attorney, myself, for poor women who come before that court for justice. A poor woman came to my house with a beautiful

child. She had been driven from her home, where she had another child as beautiful as the one in her arms. They were her master's children. I had the pleasure of bringing that gentleman to my headquarters, and we there compelled him to pay money and give his bond for the support of his children, just the same as if they had been the children of a white woman. [The General then read a section of the circular forbidding the removal of the aged and infirm, and said]: I put this in upon the petition of the old slave owners; many of whom are good men; men of humanity—men who would no sooner turn away their old servants than their own children. There are many such. God bless them! Many would turn them away and they would drift in upon the home of some good man. Some humane men cannot take care of the old and infirm; therefore to them this rule seems arbitrary. I believe it is just. I believe the master who has had the proceeds of his labor so long, should take care of him as he goes down to his grave.

Education will receive earnest attention. Benevolent and religious organizations will be formed, and superintendents of schools will introduce method and fashion into educational enterprises.

This is the outline of the work to be done. That it is a necessary work, you are all ready to testify, you have come from those counties of Tennessee where most of the colored people are going on just the same as before the war. We are gathering information as fast as possible, and shall correct these evils as soon as possible. In doing this I need not only your co-operation but that of the white people, and I believe they are more and more convinced of the necessity of co-operating with this Bureau, because they plainly see that the colored man will walk 20, 30 and 50 miles to tell his story of oppression. This is very common in Tennessee and Alabama. But I think we have great reason to be thankful that we are getting on as well as we are, and that there is no more oppression in these border States. I find I am received with more consideration than I expected. I am from Missouri. I think I am as well posted as they are; and therefore, they are daily consulting me as to the best methods of regulating this new scheme of compensated labor throughout the State; and we hope by next January or February that each colored man will be engaged in productive industry, and will find at his own county seat, a man who will be his friend, and protect him in his contracts.

EDUCATION.

We want your co-operation in the schools. The political cry used to be "agitate, agitate, agitate." I say, "educate, educate, educate." [Great cheers.] I believe I shall have 300 school teachers in six weeks; and I hope to be teaching

25,000 colored children before the first of January next. I propose also a good normal school for the education of colored teachers. We want good teachers from Northern cities—men who believe that you should be taught—who believe that the same Saviour who died for them, died for you.

SUFFRAGE.

Now for the suffrage. I have not thought so much about that as about good homes, settled with your families, and you provided with good bread and butter, and with good jackets. The suffrage will come round all right. I believe in it. I was one of the first men to give the colored man a bible—the first to give him a bayonet—and I shall not be behind in giving him the ballot. With this swarm of *B's* I think the negro will take care of himself.

North of the Ohio many are willing to give the negro suffrage. The New York Herald, the most influential paper in the country, advocates negro suffrage. It will be sufficiently stirred up if we give attention to other things, such as getting homes down here. There are a great many people north of the Ohio river, among the old settlers of the country, who believe the negro should not vote until he is somewhat educated. I don't object if the test is to be applied to white men. Let everybody be educated; and if I could make it a law to-day, I should say, after 1870 no man in America should vote who could not read his ticket and write his name upon it. All I ask is that because a man is black simply, that shall not be reason for shutting him off. No oligarchy of skin, or of red whiskers! Let the test apply to everybody. The President is in favor of this measure. I had a long conversation with Mr. Johnson. I believe him to be your firm friend. He said some good things to the colored people in this vicinity last year. I don't think he has backslidden a bit.

Gen. Fisk then read extracts from the speech of Governor Johnson, delivered last fall in Nashville, to an immense assembly of colored people. The General made many happy allusions as he proceeded with the report, as it appeared in the Cincinnati Gazette. In allusion to the President's promise to be our Moses, he said:

Next time I write to the President I shall tell him he is in direct succession to Moses. In due time Moses will be revealed to you.

This said Andrew Johnson, in the month of October last, in this city, wanted you to take care of all you had got—to be industrious. You must work out your own salvation. Those who have taken care of themselves, and masters too, ought to be able to take care of themselves alone. Be economical, provident, saving what you earn. Lay by something for a rainy day. Your masters wont take care of you any more. That

is the only way I can do—to buy my clothing in winter with what I earn in summer.

One man told me the negroes were idle, lazy, vagabonds, great thieves—steal every thing—lie unmercifully, etc., and spoke of the Christian treatment he gave them. I told him his whole life had been a lie. We have been fighting four years to destroy this system of Christianity which produces such results. I have frequently received letters threatening me with assassination. I have had sermons preached to me by the Christian women of the South who came to see me.

I was once in Mississippi recently and a lady came to my headquarters and said: "General Fisk, you have got my boy, Sam." I said, "Yes, and he is going to fight the battles of his country." "Don't you know, sir, he is my property, and it is just the same as stealing?" "Now," said she, "you profess to be a good man. I've heard you pray; and you now come and steal my property." I told her the Court was open and she might sue me for it: She said they had no Courts. I said that was not my fault. "Then," said she, "I will appear against you at the great judgment day, and I'll ask you why you stole that boy. Then what will you say?" That, as the President used to say, reminded me of a little story.

The General then related the story of Pat who stole a pig from the widow Malone, and how the priest blamed him for it, and how he would give the pig back at the judgment day when he should be charged with the theft. The application was quite evident and the story elicited great mirth and applause.

I have been through the mill, continued the General, from the beginning. I know what you want and what you desire, and I shall labor all I can to obtain it. You can always depend upon me. I always help the bottom dog in a fight anyhow.

In Kentucky there are still slaves—slave men and slave women—Kentucky still refusing to let them go. I hoped the war would not end until slavery ended. But the boys in blue have not all gone home yet.

James T. Rapier, of Maury, offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Convention return its most sincere thanks to the gallant soldier and christian gentleman, Brigadier General C. B. Fisk, Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau of Kentucky, Tennessee and North Alabama, for his kindness in delivering an able, encouraging and instructive address to us.

After announcing the speakers for the evening, the Convention adjourned until 9 o'clock, A. M., Wednesday.

THIRD DAY—MORNING SESSION.

The Convention met according to adjournment, the President in the Chair.

Prayer by the Rev. Abram Ford, of Knox county.

The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

A number of delegates arrived, handed in their credentials, and took their seats.

N. G. Merry, of Davidson, introduced a resolution for a committee to wait upon Major General Thomas, and solicit free transportation for the delegates returning home.

Frank Parrish was appointed the committee.

Daniel Wadkins, Sr., of Davidson, offered the following:

Inasmuch as it is indispensably necessary for us as a people to have some authorized medium, through which we can communicate our desires, aims and purposes in the great work of educating, elevating and christianizing ourselves and our people,

Resolved, That we establish in Nashville, the capital of Tennessee, a Central Committee of Nine, by whose instrumentality we will endeavor to do the work.

Adopted, and the following gentlemen were elected the Central Committee:

D. Wadkins, Sr.,	W. B. Scott, Sr.,
N. G. Merry,	N. Walker,
D. L. Lapsley,	D. Brown,
F. Parrish,	R. Harris,
A. Smith.	

James T. Rapier, of Maury, offered the following, which was adopted:

WHEREAS, it is generally considered among the whites at the South, and by many at the North, that we are consumers and not producers—Therefore,

Be it Resolved by this Convention, That there be a committee of five appointed on Agriculture, whose duty it shall be to report the amount of lands under cultivation this year by colored men, the amount of produce raised, &c., &c.

N. G. Merry, of Davidson, offered a resolution suggesting that an address of thanks be made to Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, for the work he has done, and to remind him of the promise he made us.

Referred to the Business Committee.

Rev. James Lynch was then introduced to the Convention, and spoke.

By request, Richard Harris and Daniel Wadkins, Sr., of Davidson, and James T. Rapier, of Maury, were added to the Business Committee.

Frank Parrish, of Davidson, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that one hundred and fifty dollars had

been taken up, and stated some of the expenses—use of Church, paying for publishing the call in three different papers, &c., &c.

The report was adopted, and the Convention adjourned until 9 o'clock, A. M., Thursday.

FOURTH DAY—MORNING SESSION.

The Convention met according to adjournment, President Walker in the Chair.

Prayer by Rev. Levi Trimble, of Franklin county.

Minutes of the previous session read and approved.

After considerable discussion on many suggestions, Mr. Richard Harris moved that all debate be suspended.

Motion prevailed.

After which the business of the Convention was disposed of very rapidly with due consideration.

M. J. R. Gentle, of Knox, offered the following, which was adopted :

WHEREAS, The colored citizens in many of the remote counties of this State, do not receive just compensation for their labor, and are otherwise badly treated by the disloyal whites, therefore,

Resolved, That each county delegation of this Convention constitute a Committee to look after the interests of our people throughout the State, and make known our grievances to Major-General Fisk, or his agents, through the Central Committee at Nashville.

2d. Resolved, That the said Committee co-operate with, and assist all agents of the Freedmen's Bureau and benevolent societies in the establishment of schools.

Warner Madison, of Shelby, offered the following, which was adopted :

Resolved, That it shall be the duty of the State Central Committee, and its branches in the various counties, to prepare as accurately as possible, a return of the number of our people in each section, the occupation followed, property owned by them, taxes paid, the number of children and adults attending schools, the various places of worship owned by the people, and all such other information, as showing our progress, will be of advantage to the cause.

Resolved, That the State Committee cause the publication of these figures and facts in the Colored Tennessean, so that the world may know of our true condition.

The Business Committee, through their Chairman, reported back addresses to the colored people, and the loyal white citizens of Tennessee, and were read to the delegates by delegates J. T. Rapier and T. J. White, of Maury, amid the profound attention of the Convention.

James T. Rapier, of Maury, moved that fifteen hundred copies of the Colored Tennessean, containing the proceedings of this Convention, be taken at the rate offered by the publisher, \$50 per thousand. Adopted.

Warner Madison, of Shelby, offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That in addition to the fifteen hundred copies ordered by the Convention, each individual member is earnestly asked to subscribe for as many copies as he feels he can afford, to be distributed either by himself, or by the Central Committee.

James T. Rapier, of Maury, offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That this Convention return its most sincere thanks to our worthy President, Vice-President, Secretaries and other officers, for the able and important discharge of their duties. And to the reporters of the Press and Times, Nashville Union, New York Herald, and Cincinnati Gazette, for the promulgation of our proceedings from day to day, and to the people of Nashville, for their hospitality to the delegates of this Convention, while attending the Convention.

Thomas J. White, of Maury, offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Inasmuch as each member of this Convention is thoroughly convinced that we, the colored citizens of the United States, have many good and true friends in the United States, in England and other foreign nations, who feel a deep interest in our present and future welfare. Therefore,

Be it Resolved, By this Convention, that we tender our sincere thanks to them, and pledge ourselves never to act unworthy of their respect and friendship, and we pray a continuance of their exertions in our behalf, until we arrive at the fulness of citizenship.

Resolved, That our gratitude is due the National Congress, for the passage of the bill organizing the Freedmen's Bureau, and that we most sincerely return our heartfelt thanks to the President of the United States for the just consideration of our position, evinced in the appointment as the head of the Bureau, of that christian gentleman and soldier, Gen. O. O. Howard, and of such worthy coadjutors as assistant commissioner for this State, Brig.-Gen. C. B. Fisk. By the establishment of this Bureau, and in the appointment of such officers as those we name, we recognize another proof of the spirit of justness and kindness which animates the American people to-

wards us, and in that spirit we determine to follow its advice and aid its purposes.

On motion of Ransom Harris, of Davidson, a resolution of thanks was passed, to the Nashville Press and Times, and Union, for their advocacy of our claims in the past.

Frank Parrish, of Davidson, reported that Maj.-Gen. G. H. Thomas would grant free transportation to delegates on their return home, and a vote of thanks was tendered Gen. Thomas for his kindness.

Resolutions setting apart the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, and the 1st day of January, as days of jubilee for the colored people of Tennessee, to be by them celebrated through all time.

The President again returned his thanks to the Convention for the kind manner in which he had been treated during the entire session. Several others made feeling and impressive remarks. A parting hymn was sung, and the Convention adjourned, *sine die*.

N. WALKER, *President*.

A. SMITH, *Secretary*.

ADDRESS

Of the Business Committee of the State Convention of Colored Men, held at Nashville, Tenn., August 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th.

TO THE WHITE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

GENTLEMEN:—You are aware that the colored people of the State petitioned to the Legislature of Tennessee, at its last session, to grant us the elective franchise, and the right to testify in the courts of said State; and that honorable body having failed to give us any satisfaction respecting said petition, many alledging, as an excuse, that they dare not take such a step, until they had heard from their constituents on the subject. Now, therefore, we, in Convention assembled, deem it fit and proper to appeal to you, as the sovereign power of the State, to advise your representatives in the next Legislature, to grant the colored people of this State the request contained in the aforementioned petition.

Why not grant it, gentlemen, at farthest it cannot be long deferred? Other States have granted the same request from their colored citizens. Why not the volunteer State? It is only a question of time, and must join in the great march of events. We are a people of reason as well as you, and made in the image of God, as all men are. We have the same aims in life as you, and the same hopes in death; clearly then, we are a part of the great human family, which should be some recommendation.

If you refuse our request on the grounds that we are ignorant, we urge, as an argument, that learning is not the test in this State, if it were, many white voters would be stricken from your rolls. Again, we were once intelligent enough to vote for the lamented and immortal Jackson, Hon. John Bell, and other distinguished gentlemen of this State, and we have no reason to believe we are less intelligent now than then. If you urge our poverty as a just cause for refusing our request, we would beg to remind you that property qualification is not the test in this State. You can no longer refuse us on the grounds of slavery, for by your own votes you have made us freemen; and to you, gentlemen, who released us from a state of servitude, do we appeal to strike off our political bonds. If you urges as a plea for withholding our request, that we were the cause of the late cruel war, which in its

march trampled down the civil laws of the land, swept away your cherished institutions, devastated your fields, burned your cities and towns, and made a nation of widows and orphans; we tell you we are not responsible for these things; hence we say,

Shake not thy gory locks at us,
Thou can'st not say, we did it!

There are many who object to granting us our request because they fear social equality will be the natural consequence. To all such we would say, you are exercising yourselves needlessly; such is false reasoning. Suppose the Mayor of Nashville and its most degraded elector go up to the polls and deposit their votes, the one for and the other against the same candidate, in this case one vote balances the other, this is political equality. Now, does it follow that the Mayor will take the degraded man home with him, sit him down at his table with himself and family? Not at all, this is social equality; it is plain there is no connection between the two; they are as foreign to one another as the East is to the West. All men have their prejudices. You have the right to select your company. We the right to choose our associates.

Believing we have answered the principal objections most men have to our voting and testifying in court, we now proceed to offer a reason to which no objection can be made, namely: our numbers. We desire respectfully to remind you that our voting population, if granted the elective franchise, would be about twenty-five per cent of the whole; a very important fact for politicians to consider. Believing that the citizens of Tennessee are very noble and generous, we therefore, most respectfully submit this appeal to you, for your calm and impartial consideration. And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

AN ADDRESS

*Of the Business Committee of the State Convention of Colored Men,
held at Nashville, Tenn., August 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th, 1865.*

TO THE COLORED AMERICANS OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

Your representatives in Convention assembled, deem it their duty to promulgate an address to you in the spirit of advice and warning. In assuming this responsibility we are deeply impressed with our want of ability to do anything like justice to this all-absorbing matter; but in this we put our trust in your known generosity to overlook the shortcomings of a people unaccustomed to free discussion of matters of such vast importance.

Oppressed fellow-countrymen, after enduring the wrongs of slavery for many long years with all its curses, Almighty God has, in His providence and in His own good time, moulded our former oppressors into an instrument through which our liberation has been accomplished. This being true, we implore you never forget to revere the immortal God who has completed this wonderful work in His own wonderful way.

Four years ago slavery reigned supreme throughout our State. To-day there is no man in this proud State of Tennessee a slave, except by his own consent. Instead of there being two hundred and eighty three thousand slaves, we have as many freemen, having the same impulses and faculties as the rest of the human family. Then, as freemen you are now called upon to so conduct yourselves on all occasions and under all circumstances, as to cause the enemies of our race to blush for shame, and cause our friends throughout the world to rejoice. The eyes of our friends, both North and South—yea, more, of the whole civilized world—are fixed upon us; our actions will be more subjected to criticism now than ever before. Therefore, it behooves us to conduct ourselves in the most commendable manner possible. But this you cannot do unless you betake yourselves and strictly adhere to those principles which are marked out for all races passing from oppression to occupy the position of freemen. First of which is industry, education, economy and christianity. Without all these qualities combined in a people, they never reach that pre-

eminence intended for man on earth by his Creator. It is true that heretofore the fruits of our industry were denied us and enjoyed by others. It is true that the doors of education heretofore have been closed between us and its blessings. It is true that in former days economy with us was in reality a useless waste, and last, though not by any means least, it is sadly true that the teachings of christianity seldom ever reached us except garbled so as to suit the slaveholder's wicked purposes. But now, fellow-countrymen, these outrages have passed away, and we can reasonably hope never to appear again. By the blessings of an Allwise Being and the strong arm of the Federal Government, the enjoyments of those natural rights will not be denied you except by your consent. We, therefore, appeal to you as brethren, in the name of all the wrongs you have so long endured—in the name of the bright future that now looms up before us, and in the name of coming generations, to betake yourselves to those righteous practices, through the observance of which you can become an enlightened and a prosperous people. Then we ask you again and again, do not disregard this advice and warning. In whatever position you may be placed never fail to encourage virtue in the broadest sense of the word.

Teach your daughters that the greatest crime they can commit is to sacrifice their chastity. Teach them to know that woman without virtue has lost her all. Teach your sons and daughters that concubinage is a crime which the laws of our State will now severely punish. And above all, fathers and mothers, set such virtuous examples before your children, so that through the journey of life, and at the final day they cannot reproach you for having been guilty of a dereliction of duty.

By the laws of Tennessee you are now required to get license and marry, just as though you were white persons. All of you who were married without licenses, it is your right, and indispensable duty, at the earliest opportunity, to procure license from the nearest County Court Clerk, or any other duly authorized person in your district, and re-marry according to law. Should any of you apply for license to the proper authority and be refused them upon your offering the necessary fee, you should then make the fact known to General Fisk, Chief of Freedmen's Bureau, headquarters at Nashville, or the branch bureau nearest your place of residence, and the officer in charge of such department will see that you are justly dealt with, not only in this particular, but in all other matters where the civil laws deny your rights.

Should you refuse or neglect to accept of these legal marriage privileges, our enemies will use your neglect or refusal as a weapon to prove that we are incapable of exercising political and civil rights. We, therefore, earnestly hope that you will lose no time in acting upon this important matter in

a proper manner and as the law requires. So far as our political rights are concerned, how long, or how short the time may be before they are granted us, will depend, in a great measure, upon the manner in which we conduct ourselves as nominal freemen. But as this is a matter which your Central Committee will have to deal with, we do not propose to discuss it here.

Inasmuch as many of our brethren do not seem to comprehend the true definition of our newly acquired freedom, the Convention would offer them its opinion. We must not understand that it gives us the privilege to roam about the country as common idlers and rowdies, without any fixed habitation or apparent means of support. But let us encourage industry, so that our families may be respected and cared for—that our children may be properly educated, by which means they may be useful members to any society in which they may live and move. We must exercise forbearance and endure as far as practicable the many petty differences between us and the whites, or between ourselves. The scheme of colonization is impracticable, and we must relax no effort to continue our habitation in this country in the full enjoyment of all the rights and privileges exercised by any other class of citizens.

Therefore it is our bounden duty to eradicate past differences from our memories, and commence the work of harmonizing. To accomplish this end we must combine all our efforts. There is a gulf between the whites and us, because of intelligence on their part and illiteracy upon ours. Neither politicians nor Congress can bridge this chasm, nor can it be done by any save ourselves, than by our own exertions in the direction of education, uprightness, the acquiring of wealth and industry. Upon one side we see arrayed the Anglo-Saxon with his learning and wealth; on the other the blacks with their labor. And for the development of the resources of this or any other country, capital and labor are mutually beneficial; hence we claim that the races are dependent on each other, and should adapt themselves to present circumstances. Now you must see the course for us to pursue is, to remove the smoky clouds of ignorance and degradation, which has been the life aim of our oppressors to perpetuate among us—is to go earnestly to work and rectify the guilty habits contracted under the blighting influences of slavery, and substitute those virtues that make the man noble. Let our watch-word be Education and Elevation. Then we feel sure that the inevitable result will be upward and onward to the colored race.

Agriculture being one of the elements of wealth, we desire you to purchase or rent lands, and commence cultivating them. We notice with pride that many have already gone to tilling the soil as independent farmers with much success. The broad fields of Tennessee must be tilled, for in their produce is the great strength of the State. Why may we not till them

independently, thereby acquiring a portion of the power of Tennessee? Above all things let us have due respect for the laws of the land, for the most conclusive evidence that a person is properly qualified to exercise the rights of citizenship is his willing adherence to law and order. It is an unmistakable fact that much can be accomplished by unity. So we sincerely desire that harmony and union prevail in all actions put forth for the advancement of our race:—

“Fame and honor from no condition rise;
Act well your part—there the honor lies.”

One other very important matter we desire to call your attention particularly to. There seems to be a growing disposition among our people to embark in certain callings, which can in no wise prove beneficial to us in this great struggle, but which will surely, if persisted in, prove detrimental to the cause.

We allude to colored men dealing in spirituous liquors. You may acquire means by this demoralizing traffic. You may dodge manual labor by this wicked practice, but you can never acquire the gratitude of a right thinking people, nor can you dodge the responsibility of having been instrumental in outraging the morals of our poor race.

We speak not in anger, but in kindness, but is it not a shame that men who would otherwise be capable for our leaders, and who do aspire to lead us. Is it not a shame that such men should so far forget or disregard the duties of the good citizen, as to deal out to his fellow-man this demoralizing, degrading, and poisonous drug? We call upon every honest colored man in the State to raise his voice in condemnation of whisky-selling. This demon is the most troublesome enemy we have to deal with, and should we fail to conquer it now, in its infancy, it will not fail to conquer us when full grown.

To the Colored Mechanics: If there is a class of men in our State more important, and so far as their occupations are concerned, more worthy than any other, they are our colored mechanics. Therefore we most earnestly call upon them to look well to their several mechanical professions. There is no class of men who can give more dignity and honor to our race than a set of practical mechanics. We are proud to know that in this respect, Tennessee is far in advance of any of the late slave States. Then it is highly necessary that they should be encouraged in every possible manner. It is earnestly hoped that not a single man of them will think of giving up his trade merely to experiment in other occupations, which in nine cases out of ten, will not prove profitable, and surely not honor him as his profession deserves.

A word to our brave and ever-to-be-remembered soldiers. The day is not far distant when you will be called on to give up the pursuits of war and return, we hope, to your peaceful

homes. You will find them no longer the homes of oppression as they were in former days. Through your valor and bravery the tyrant's rod has been forever broken, and but for your noble deeds upon the battle-field, the civil portion of your countrymen would not be possessed of privileges and rights they now enjoy. Your heroic bravery and undaunted courage have forever silenced the enemies of free government with regard to the colored man's qualities to defend the right.

And now, as you are about to lay aside the bayonet, we conjure you, in the face of your brilliant successes on the battle-field, to remember that you are pillars by which your long-suffering race expect to climb to greatness and renown, and on which they expect and hope to lean for support. Remembering this you will not require any admonition from us as to your future proper course.

In conclusion, then, we would say to one and all, as we are aiming to accomplish one great purpose, we should stand shoulder to shoulder and make one grand effort, undivided, for equal rights.

It is to be regretted that there should be any contentions among colored men at this particular time; and we call upon them in every portion of the State where those contentions may exist, in the name of all that is dear to man, to forget and forgive the past. Be warned by the wrongs you have endured in the gloomy past, but look and act only for the present and the future. We pray you look above and beyond those petty difficulties, and, in the language of the poet, "Throw away selfish ambition, for by it fell the angels."

Having said thus much, we, your representatives, bid you adieu, with an abiding confidence that the gracious Being who has stood by us, and for us, during all these troubles, will not, if we only be true to ourselves, desert us, now that we are in sight of the promised land.

CONSTITUTION.

WHEREAS, The Convention of colored men in the city of Nashville, Assembled August 7, 1865, ordained and established a Central Committee, composed of nine persons, to complete the unfinished business of said Convention, and to otherwise transact business for the general welfare of the colored people of the State of Tennessee. And, whereas, it is necessary for said Committee to have a Constitution, in order that their proceedings may be regular and orderly. We, the undersigned, members of said Committee, do ordain and establish this Constitution, by which we will be governed in all our business transactions.

ARTICLE I.

This Committee shall be known as the State Central Committee. The officers of which shall be a Chairman, a Treasurer, a Recording, and a Corresponding Secretary.

ARTICLE II.

The officers, if faithful in the discharge of their respective duties, shall hold their offices twelve months, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

ARTICLE III.

Should vacancies in the Committee occur by death or resignation, the Committee will fill such vacancies at its next regular meeting.

ARTICLE IV.

The Committee shall give due consideration to, and investigation of all communications submitted to it from the various committees in different parts of the State, or other bodies of colored persons, or their friends, and dispose of the same in an equitable manner, according to its ability.

ARTICLE V.

SECTION 1. The Chairman of the Committee shall attend all of the meetings, preserve order, put resolutions and moves after they have been seconded, to vote, and perform all the duties of the Chair faithfully.

SEC. 2. The Treasurer shall take and hold all monies entrusted to him by the Committee, and disburse the same according to the direction of the same.

SEC. 3. The Recording Secretary shall attend all the meetings, record their proceedings in a book kept for the purpose.

SEC. 4. The Corresponding Secretary shall attend the regular meetings, make himself familiar with the nature of all communications, and furnish such information to persons interested, as the Committee may direct from time to time.

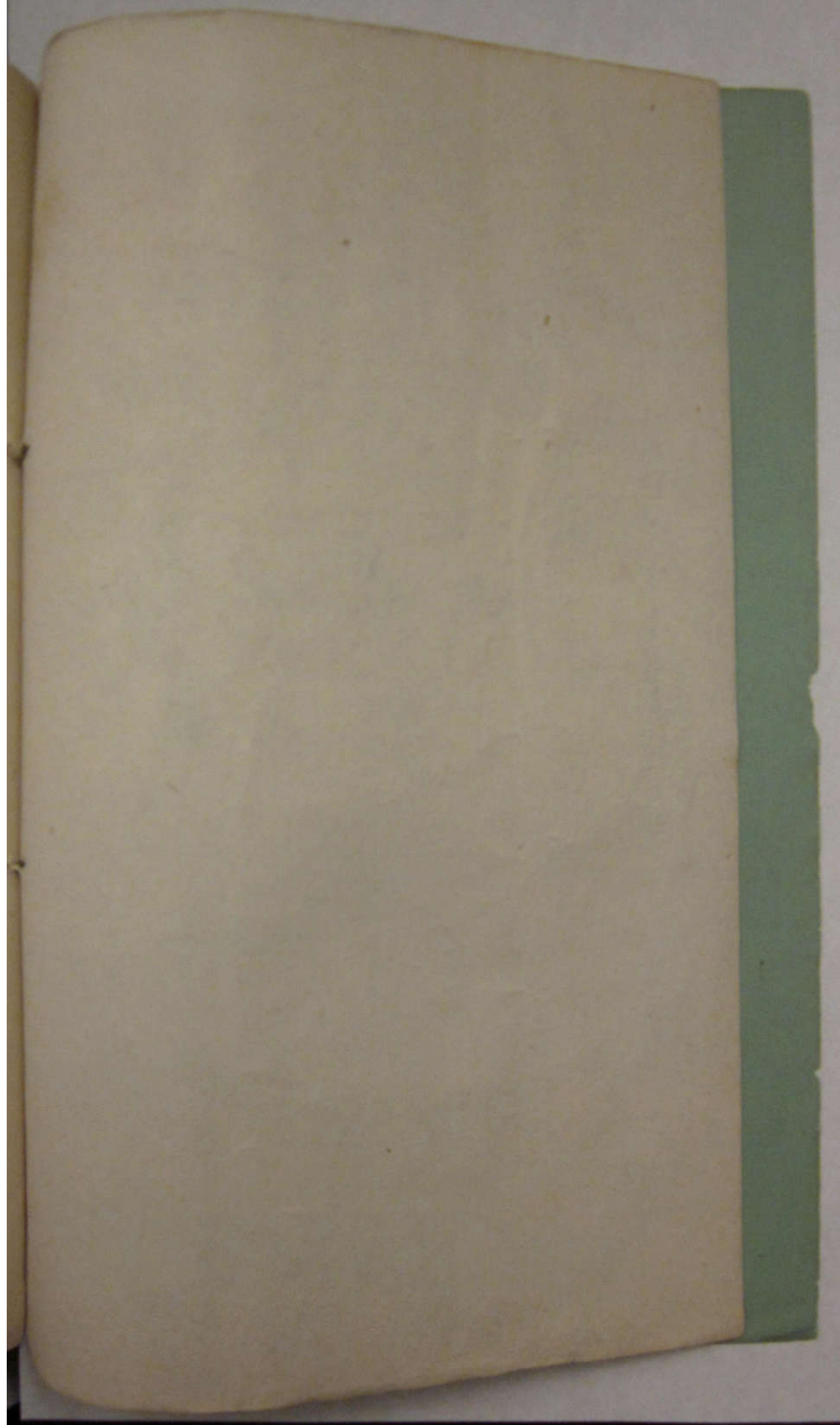
SEC. 5. The Committee may require of its Treasurer satisfactory sureties for a faithful discharge of the duties of Treasurer.

ARTICLE VI.

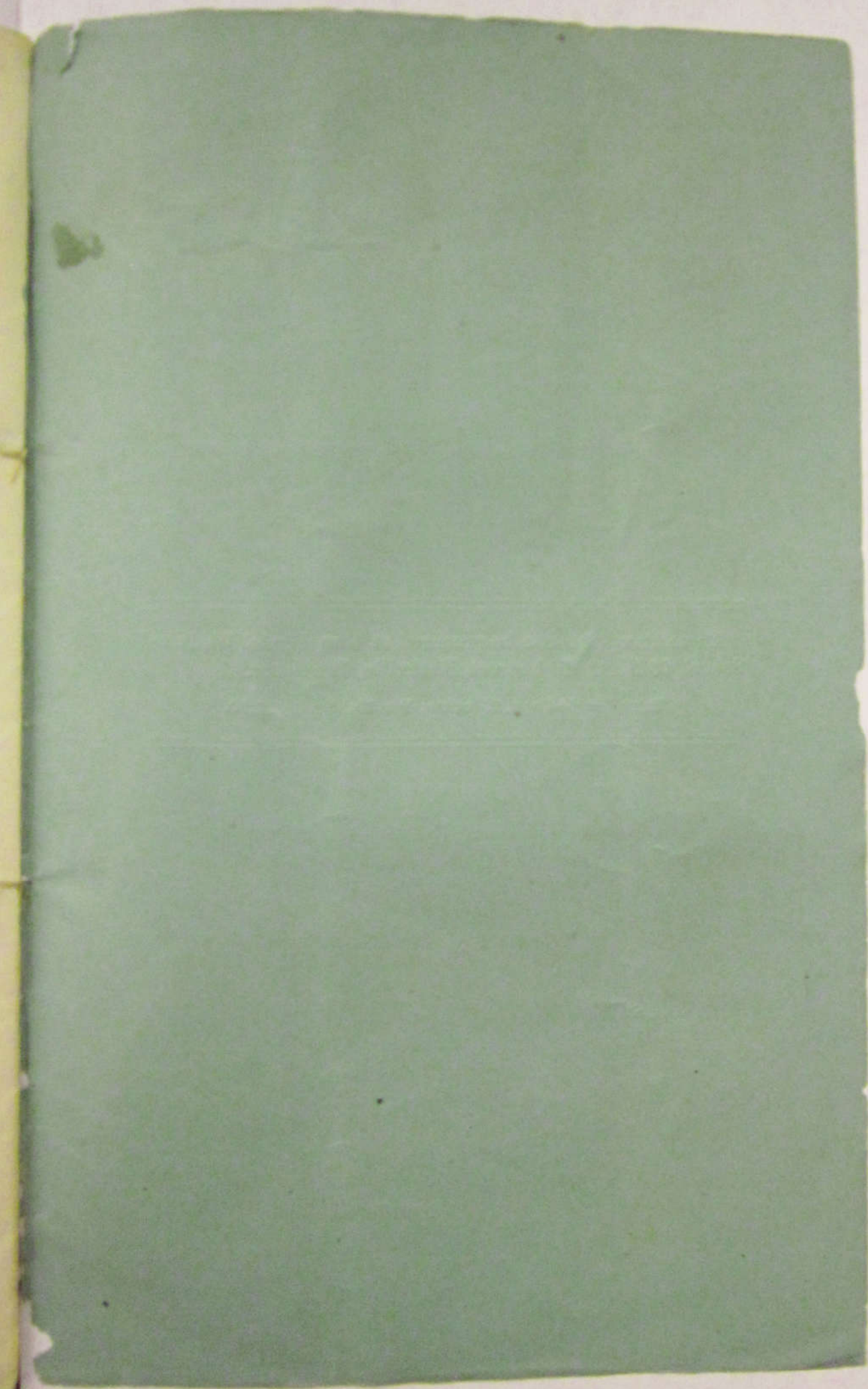
The Committee can, by a majority of its votes, at any regular meeting, alter, amend, or modify this Constitution.

ARTICLE VII.

The regular meetings shall take place the 1st and 3d Thursdays in each month, and as often as in the judgment of the Chairman may require. In the absence of the Chairman the Committee shall appoint its Chairman, *pro tem*.







These Pamphlets can be procured at Rev. Daniel Wadkins'
School, 76 North High street, Nashville, Tennessee.

Price, Single Copy, 25 cents; Per Hundred, \$20.00.
