

Convention Reporter.

VOL. 2.

FEBRUARY 15, 1871.

No. 4.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE OHIO STATE CONVENTION OF COLORED MEN.

[The Ohio State Convention of Colored Men was held in the City of Columbus, Ohio, on Wednesday, January 18, 1871.]

The Convention assembled at 11 o'clock, and was called to order by Mr. JOHN BOOKER, of Columbus.

Mr. J. C. LUCA was elected temporary Chairman, and Dr. J. C. McSIMPSON, of Zanesville, Secretary.

The Convention was opened with prayer by Rev. M. M. SMITH, of Steubenville.

On motion of Mr. BOOKER, the following persons were appointed a Committee on Permanent Organization:

J. P. Underwood.....	Franklin county.
Henry Ford.....	Champaign "
J. C. McSimpson.....	Muskingum "
Robert A. Pinn.....	Stark "
M. M. Smith.....	Jefferson "
R. J. Robinson.....	Lorain "
B. W. Arnett.....	Lucas "
A. Lilly.....	Fairfield "
L. S. Chester.....	Fayette "

The committee retired for consultation, and Mr. DAVID JENKINS, of Columbus, being called upon, addressed the Convention.

Said he: Since we met in this city last, great changes have taken place — changes which no human being would have dreamed of. When we met then, we were suppliants before the law; petitioners before the people; to-day we meet as American citizens. We ought to be exceedingly glad that we meet under such favorable auspices at this time in the capital of the third State in the Union. Great political struggles are going on in this country, and the day is not far distant when every state in the Union will be represented in the national legislature by colored men.

I do not know how soon the people of this State will send me to the legislature. I know

I should not refuse the nomination if I could get it. Very recently two colored men were sworn in and took their seats in the House in Congress as members from North Carolina. We have now representatives in both branches of the national legislature; we have colored men filling other important offices also; we have a judge of the supreme court—the highest judicial office which exists in the state where he lives. We ought to rejoice, and give praise to Him who made the earth and all things for giving us these rights as American citizens.

Mr. E. C. JACKSON, of Xenia, was called out, and addressed the Convention.

Said he: We must arouse; we must do something. It is expected of us, as a part and parcel of this great nation, now having all the rights of other men, that we should improve upon our privileges, and do something, if but little. Looking over a paper on the cars, I was forcibly struck with an extract from a speech of FRANK BLAIR. I was so unfortunate as to marry into the BLAIR family. [Laughter.] I am very glad my wife is not a member of the FRANK P. BLAIR family. [Laughter.] The extract I refer to, was from a speech he made in the Missouri Legislature, in which he repudiates the idea that the XIIIth, XIVth and XVth amendments can be continued to be carried into effect. I will read the extract, showing the manner in which he defined his position on this question. Referring to his letter to Colonel BROADHEAD, he uses the following language:

"SIR—My letter, which has been referred to, contends that the military should be made to undo their usurpations at the South. I say so still—and you have only to withdraw them from the South, and their work will be undone. That carrion crew of carpet-baggers who are gorged upon the plunder, and drunk with the blood of the vanquished people of

the South, will disperse themselves in an instant if not sustained by the bayonets of the Federal government. There is no item in that letter that I take back; I stand by it. I believe in the construction given to the Constitution of the United States by the Supreme Court, that this reconstruction was unconstitutional. My hope in going to Congress, if I should attain that high position, is that I may aid in withdrawing the troops from those Southern States which are held there to saddle upon the backs of that people a parcel of carpet-baggers and scallawags, followed by an ignorant mass of negroes."

I am sorry there is so much truth in regard to this ignorance among us; but I would charge it only to the whites. They are the sole cause of our ignorance, from the very fact that their feet have been upon our necks for over two hundred years. If some poor Quaker would be kind enough to come to teach us—especially in the great state of Kentucky, from which I came, and where I was a slave for thirty years—they were not allowed to do it, and we were prohibited from receiving instruction even in the Alphabet. But continues Mr. BLAIR:

"If the people of the South, who have shown a disposition to abide in good faith by the arbitrament of arms, renew their allegiance, to the government they will be allowed to resume self-government among themselves as we have done in Missouri."

Where is that "disposition to abide in good faith by the arbitrament of arms?"

In a letter received yesterday from my sister in Kentucky, she states that they are afraid to go to sleep at nights. And why? Because white men are going around hanging up negroes every once in a while. And what for? Because they love liberty. And white men are also being hung because they help the negro from his servitude.

I do not wish to bring up anything more than what is necessary. I am a Democrat on that point. I say, let "by-gones be by-gones."

We have reason to give glory to God in the highest for our deliverance from bondage. We are now traveling in a land flowing with milk and honey, though our pathway has been strewn with blood all the way along—and not only with blood, but the bones of thousands of our brethren lie bleaching on our Southern soils.

One thing more I wish to bring to the notice of the Convention, and I have done. We have at Xenia a Soldiers' Orphan Home. At a meeting held there, at which the good Governor of our State was present, I made a proposition to subscribe something for the support of the institution, if colored children would be admitted. This was agreed to, and the Board have decided that colored children shall be admitted on an equality with white children. You thus see we are moving onward. [Applause.]

Mr. UNDERWOOD, from the Committee on Permanent Organization, submitted the following report:

For President—John Booker, of Columbus.
First Vice President—R. A. Pinn.
Second Vice President—Rev. J. M. Luca, of Zanesville.
Third Vice President—Rev. M. M. Smith, of Jefferson county.
Fourth Vice President—C. A. Shaeffer, of Newark.
Fifth Vice President—E. Jackson, of Greene county.

The report was unanimously adopted.

MESSRS. JENKINS, EARLY and GARNES were appointed a committee to escort the President elect to the Chair.

Mr. BOOKER, on taking the Chair, spoke as follows:

Fellow Citizens, and Gentlemen of the Convention—I regard this rather as a surprise party to me. I did not expect such honors at your hands, certainly. I return you my sincere thanks. It will be expected of me to say something on this occasion; I cannot make a speech, but I will endeavor to make a few remarks with reference to the objects for which we have assembled here to-day.

At a meeting held in this city some time ago, the question was seriously considered by a number of our citizens whether we should hold a convention or not. It was thought by some that, by holding a convention exclusively colored, it might be supposed by some of our white Republicans, that we had withdrawn ourselves from them altogether, and were now in favor of establishing a separate party. That, however, was a mistaken notion. Every one of us here is a true Republican; we are, in the truest sense of the word Black, Republicans. [Laughter.]

We are here to support, and if possible to help, perpetuate that great party that assisted us in getting what we enjoy to-day. It would be ingratitude upon our part if we would desert them now. But we say we will not desert them, if they do not desert us; we are a part and parcel of the great Republican party; but we believe we have separate interests to maintain and look after, which the white Republicans cannot so well do, as they can not feel and realize our wants as well as we do. It is for this purpose that we meet here to-day.

It is our right to meet here to-day and consider these things, and we thank God and the republican party through whose assistance we have been brought to enjoy this privilege, and the rights we enjoy as colored citizens in this State. It becomes our duty however to do something to maintain the rights given to us; and if any one thing astonishes me more than another, it is the fact that some say that all is now secure, and that we are in no danger of losing the rights we enjoy. Just so long as the hydra-headed monster—as I term the democratic party—exists in this country, so long are we in danger. So it behooves us to be on the lookout and not sleep at our post, but ever be ready for duty that we may not be overcome by this great monster. Let the word go out from this convention that we are republicans, and propose to maintain the principles of the republican party, and adhere to that party while it takes no steps backward but continues to go onward and upward. You, fellow citizens, are better republicans than many of the white republicans. Some of them are weak-kneed, and we will have to do something for them—will have to rub them a little and do all we can to strengthen their bones and sinews. Let us, gentlemen of the convention, give no uncertain sound here to-day. As the democratic party and its principles are now represented they are trying to demolish the foundations upon which we stand; and I say again, we must be watchful of our rights and allow nothing to go by unnoticed. Again, gentlemen, I thank you sincerely for the honor conferred upon me, and it will be my purpose to do the best I can, relying upon your assistance, in the discharge of my duties as President of this convention. [Applause.]

Rev. B. W. ARNETT, of Toledo, was elected Secretary, and Dr. J. C. MCSIMPSON, of Zanesville, assistant Secretary.

On motion of D. JENKINS, a committee of eleven was appointed on business. The following persons composed that committee:

Rev. J. P. Underwood.....Columbus.
David Jenkins.....Columbus.
Rev. J. Poindexter.....Columbus.
Dr. J. C. McSimpson.....Zanesville.
R. J. Robinson.....Wellington.
W. B. Wilson.....Clinton Co.
Rev. C. A. Shaeffer.....Newark.
L. S. Chester.....Fayette Co.
Mr. A. Lilly.....Lancaster.
Harry Ford.....Urbana.

On motion of D. JENKINS, it was agreed that all business be referred to the committee on business, without debate.

Mr. MANLY, of Cadiz, was appointed Sergeant-at-arms.

MESSRS. T. J. WASHINGTON, J. CAIN and WM. GARNES were appointed a committee on Finance.

On motion the convention adjourned till 2 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The convention re-assembled at 2 P. M., President BOOKER in the chair.

After some miscellaneous business was disposed of, the business committee, through their chairman, ELDER UNDERWOOD, made the following report:

1. We ask that the Legislature repeal all laws on the statute books, which make distinctions on account of color.

2. We want such modifications of the school laws as will give colored children equal privileges with white children, in all particulars.

3. We urge the propriety of holding a national or southern convention.

4. How will colored men vote?

Ans. They will inform themselves and then canvass men and measures, supporting in every case the great principles on which their own and their country's interest and liberty depend.

5. We urge upon our people the propriety of entering upon all the different branches of mechanical arts, agriculture, etc.

The business committee also reported the following:

WHEREAS, We, the colored people of Ohio, have, by our votes in the past, allied ourselves with the Republican party, and

WHEREAS, They, as a party, have acknowledged us an element in the same therefore,

Resolved, That it is impolitic for us to state our grievances against said party, other than in caucuses, except in county, district and state conventions, called by that party.

On motion, of DAVID JENKINS, the resolution relating to the identity of colored men with the Republican party in Ohio, was taken up separate from the preamble.

Mr. JENKINS then desired an explanation of the resolution, stating that their grievances should only be made against the Republican party in their caucuses.

Mr. R. J. ROBINSON.—The gentleman has, to some extent, taken away the force of the resolution, by having it presented to the convention without the preamble. The preamble sets forth that we are an element in the Republican party, and without attempting to ignore this fact, that is set aside in the consideration of this resolution. The remarks of yourself, to-day, Mr. President, and of every gentleman who has spoken, and of all who will speak, will no doubt tend to show that we are a part and element of the Republican party; and I object, sir, to our stating our grievances against our party, except in the meetings held by our party. We have the right, in common with all the members of that party, to state any grievances we feel, in the meetings of that party. If we should come here and complain of these grievances, the Democratic party would infer that our party has kicked us out. They would like to have us acknowledge that we have been ignored by the Republican party as an element or part of it; but we are not prepared to admit that such is the fact. I argue, sir, that while the Republican party may, in times past, have neglected the interests of this portion or element of its organization, we have now the right to go into their caucuses, in their counties, or districts, or in their state conventions, and state our grievances; and until we have done this, and then received no redress, we are not justified in meeting in a public manner and stating those grievances. I believe, Mr. chairman, that it is our duty at this convention, to appoint an executive committee who shall have the interest of the colored people of the State of Ohio at heart, and who shall be authorized to lay before the Republican state committee, any right of

ours that they have neglected or failed to regard. But we should never take any step that would make it appear that we are not a part of the great Republican party. There are many subjects of vital importance that we should discuss, in regard to instructing ourselves, and as to how we shall best elevate our people before we should devote our time to the discussion of politics.

J. P. UNDERWOOD.—Mr. President.—The gentleman and I differ, and we differ honestly, on this subject. To me, this subject of our connection with or relation to the Republican party is one of vast importance; and I am now going to make a remark that I am not sure will be concurred in by many of you, but I will venture it. We are convinced that we owe almost everything to the Republican party. But, does the history of that party show that it accorded to you, or me, the rights we enjoy from a frank, full, devoted heart? While I am willing to award to them all the honor due them, yet I am convinced that all that has been done by the Republican party, during the rebellion, and since, which has resulted to our benefit, *has been done* partially from necessity. [Voices, "that's it."] And I think it is a gross impropriety for us to undertake, in any way, to conform or shape our interests to any separate organization. Our object should be to secure our interests, not only now, but in the future. I am ready to say to-day, that there should be no white man in this country, or under this government, that shall be more loyal to republican principles than we; but I shall only pledge myself to republican principles; and that party, whatever it may be, that advocates republican principles, shall have my support. You will remember, that when it was submitted to the people to strike the word "white" out where it occurred, on our statute books, that over fifty thousand Republicans of the state of Ohio voted "no" on that proposition. There was a measure before them which they had time to consider, calmly and coolly for themselves; but when the test was made, they voted against it. The Republican party and the Democratic party both know that the colored man has been loyal all the time. He has prayed loyally, he has preached loyally, and done everything he could to be loyal.

The object of our meeting, in my opinion, is to take into consideration, the best means we can adopt to perpetuate that loyalty, and secure our political interests in the state of Ohio, and the United States. While I am aware of the great amount of trickery in all parties, I am willing to do all the justice I possibly can to the Republican party; and everybody knows I am just as good a Republican as any in the United States. But, sir, I am unwilling to-day, to consent to the colored Republicans of Ohio, being submerged into the white Republican party of Ohio, without any reservation, because the Republican party has its demagogues just as well as the Democratic party, men as greedy for office, and I might remark, probably, that they would make use of the same means to secure votes. I think I am saying nothing outside the real truth, when I make this statement. We are willing to take the Republican party in our fond embrace just so long as it shows it is willing to guarantee unto us the rights we are entitled to under the XIIIth, XIVth and XVth amendments. And as long as that party will vindicate those principles, and guarantee to us those rights, they will never find the black Republicans a failure in the performance of their duties. For the reason I gave and others that might be given, I am opposed to the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. JENKINS.—We have a right to tell our grievances to the whole people. If the Republican party has done wrong, let the world know it. You cannot reach the Republican party through their state conventions, unless you have delegates there. The only place we can lay our grievances to be effective, is before the law-making power whether state or national.

R. J. ROBINSON, of Wellington.—I discover that there is not a particle of difference between the gentleman who followed me on this question, and myself, only with regard to the manner in which we shall do this. I endorse most that he said. We both agree that the Republican party, if it has done wrong, should be made to hear our grievances. But I contend that this should be done only before that party of which we form a part, and not before everybody else, before we apply to

them for redress. I ask the question, if we have, at any time, ever had anything done for us, save by the Republican party? To bring in our grievances here will be taken as an indication that we intend to make friends with the Democratic party. The history of that party ought to be well enough known to all of us to deter us from that. I ask if it is consistent for us to lift our hands against our own friends without having told them of our grievances first? Any other course would be to thrust them in the back; an attempt to slay a friend. It would not be treating them as we ought to treat them. We can obtain relief much better in the way I suggest. Granting, that the rights we enjoy were given to us as a political measure, or through necessity, I cannot disregard the fact, that it was through them and nobody else, that we have come into possession of those rights.

ROBERT A. PINN, of Massillon, said: If we cannot assemble and discuss our wrongs and devise ways and means for obtaining redress, I think we have but little power. I think it is our privilege to discuss those wrongs here. If we adopt the resolution, we do away with much of the advantage of this convention.

T. J. WASHINGTON, of Columbus.—As I understand it, since the passage of the XVth amendment, we are men, and may stand erect, and though we claim to be part and parcel of the great Republican party, still we find ourselves as step-children under this government. It is claimed that we must not state our grievances publicly, but must come, I suppose, and whisper them in the ears of our Republican friends. We are citizens; they admit this; and they profess to love us most dearly about election times, and promise to do great things for us, but forget to fulfill those promises very often. I consider that what is the white man's interest in this country, is the colored man's, and what is the colored man's interest is the white man's interest. If the white man don't represent me as he does the balance of his constituents, I don't want him to represent me any more, because my ballot goes just as far to put him in position as the ballot of the whitest man in the country.

MR. JOHN BOOKER moved the reference

of the resolution to a select committee of three. He thought there was not such a wide difference existing between the members of the convention on the subject as many would suppose. Each speaker, no doubt, was perfectly honest and sincere in his views of this matter. He thought it quite important that the convention should be a unit upon this subject; and they would be if they rightly understood each other. From some remarks, however, if Democrats were present, they would almost think that they had come here for the purpose of making war upon the Republican party. But he thought they were all good Republicans, dyed in the wool—not one among them would injure the Republican party. As he said in the morning, colored men had their interests to consider. The prejudices upon the part of white men must separate them in some respects; this was true in regard to churches and other gatherings. The negro must worship in negro churches, until whites get religion enough to open their church doors and let them in. They were unwelcome, he had no doubt, to many of the Republican party, and to the Democratic party, they were decidedly so, except when the Democrats want to get their votes. If the Democratic party had the power, they would soon put them back into a condition of slavery; the speeches and acts of the leading men of the party from time to time mean this, if they mean anything; but while he claimed to be a Republican, he would watch that party too, with a jealous eye, for the love of power would induce men to do almost anything to obtain it.

WALKER EWING thought they could no more deny the Republican party than a child could deny its mother. He was present when the vote was taken upon the ratification of the XVth amendment. The Democrats fought it hard, and every one voted against it, while the Republicans fought long and hard for it. While it was true that many Republicans act from the force of circumstances, it is also true that they act willingly; on the other hand, the Democrats fought it desperately. There was, certainly, that much difference between the two parties, *in reference to rights they had obtained*. He favored the reference of the resolution to the committee.

The resolution was then referred to a committee, consisting of Messrs. ROBINSON, JENKINS and UNDERWOOD.

PETITION TO THE LEGISLATURE.

This subject being taken up, Rev. B. W. ARNETT, of Toledo, said: "I would say that I am in favor of this resolution, and can vote clearly and readily upon it. In our part of the state, we find a great many inconveniences resulting from the fact that the word 'colored' is in our law, and especially in the school law. The colored citizens of Toledo, have petitioned the board of education to allow their children the same school privileges as are granted to the white children, and the board took the matter under consideration and passed a resolution, agreeing that the section requiring separate schools for the colored and the white child, ought to be repealed. They desire that the legislature will either repeal the law referred to, or cause its operation in the city of Toledo to be suspended; and a part of my business here is to, if we can, get the law repealed, if not for the whole state, for the city of Toledo especially." After describing the inferiority of the school houses assigned to the colored children, and the many inconveniences to which they were subjected, the speaker continued: "It is a duty devolving upon this convention, to go before the legislature, and ask the repeal of all the laws that have the word 'colored' in them. All we want is equality before the law; the same law for the white man as for the colored man; let the law be meted out alike to all. And if we ever should get into that institution near the river, we do not ask that the law should be changed, but want the same punishment inflicted upon the black man as upon the white man. Let us remember that 'vigilance is the price of liberty,' and if we want to preserve our liberty, we must be vigilant and active, and awake to duty. I do not feel like putting my rights, and the rights of my child into the hands of any man or any party, but those rights I shall hold sacred to myself, and shall use my ballot to the best of my judgment, for the interest of myself, my child, my country, and my God. Friends, let us arouse ourselves; don't let us come up here *and be inspired with the remarks we hear in this convention, and resolve, and resolve, and then*

go home and dissolve. [Laughter and applause.] We want to resolve, and then go home and carry out these resolves.

The resolution was adopted by a rising vote.

NATIONAL SOUTHWESTERN CONVENTION.

MESSRS. JOHNSON, UNDERWOOD, JENKINS and McSIMPSON made a few remarks upon this resolution showing the need of such a convention, in order to consult as to the best measures to be adopted to prepare colored men to discharge their duties properly in the relations they now sustain to the government, and especially to beget in their brethren, in the south, the spirit of self-respect, and a disposition to educate and prepare themselves to cast their suffrages intelligently, without being swayed by improper motives brought to bear upon them, by designing politicians.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

DAVID JENKINS, Rev. J. POINDEXTER, and JOHN BOOKER were appointed as a committee to confer with leading colored men throughout the United States, in reference to holding a national convention.

The fourth and fifth resolutions were then adopted.

The convention then adjourned until seven o'clock P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

The convention met at DUFFY'S Hall at half-past seven o'clock.

The unfinished business was taken up and Rev. JAMES POINDEXTER, DAVID JENKINS and JOHN BOOKER were appointed a committee to present resolutions to the Legislature.

The business committee reported the following memorial from Muskingum county, which was laid on the table for the present:

ZANESVILLE, O., Jan. 17., 1871.

To the Convention of Colored Men to assemble in Columbus, the 18th inst., Greeting:

The citizens of Zanesville wish your honorable body to take into consideration the following items:

1st. A medium of co-operation among the citizens of Ohio.

2d. We suggest the propriety of dividing the State into districts, or sections, giving the colored citizens in each district, the privilege of appointing a competent committee, whose

duty shall be to ascertain the number of all qualified colored voters in their district, and see that all necessary qualifications are procured and entered into by said voters; and that each voter is furnished, on the day of elections with a proper ticket—a ticket sustaining the party that favors equal rights and good will to all.

3d. That you advise the colored voters of Ohio to vote for no man for office, who practices or favors distinctions—political or domestic—between colored and white men—let the candidate be colored or white.

4th. That you inquire into the law with regard to colored children attending white schools, where there are not enough colored children to form a separate school of their own, and that such information be published in the minutes of your proceedings. We the delegates, representing the citizens of Zanesville and vicinity, in behalf of our constituents, respectfully submit the foregoing items for your consideration, and your action or expression.

J. McSIMPSON,
A. C. LUCA,
Rev. J. LEWIS,
ALFRED DICKERSON.

On motion, speakers were limited to ten minutes each, no one to speak twice until all the delegates had spoken who wished to.

The Business Committee reported the following:

WHEREAS, Through the blessings of Almighty God, and the republican party, the fifteenth Amendment to the constitution of the United States has been adopted; therefore, *Resolved*, That we pledge to the republican party our hearty and undivided support, so long as it remains the friend of liberty, justice and equality.

Resolved, That we return our thanks to the Legislature, for ratifying the fifteenth Amendment.

Dr. McSIMPSON, of Zanesville.—Does it not foreshadow a little weakness on our part to present such a resolution as that—for so long as they remain the friends of liberty, justice and equality, any man that would not support the party—that carries on its banners that motto, ought to have his head cut off, be he black or white. Is it not superfluous?

DAVID JENKINS, of Columbus.—As long as they do that sort of thing, but no longer; because they could pledge themselves as the fellow did in one of the southern States, who went around, got all the colored men to vote for him, and when he got into Congress he disfranchised them all.

Rev. J. P. UNDERWOOD, of Columbus.—I would say that we don't want any thing better

than the republican party needs for itself; and I do not see that it detracts any thing from us. It is a new element, but we are moving in a new element.

JOHN F. WARD, of Columbus.—I think they are the most sensible resolutions I have heard read to-night. They express what we colored people always ought to carry in our bosoms. They speak of the Republican party, because the Democratic party did not do what the Republican party has done for us, and so long as they continue to carry out those principles, we ought to stick to them to a man. We have the Democratic party, the Republican party, and the Conservative party—which claims to be a great friend of the colored people, and has led a great many of our brethren in the South astray, and if we do not watch closely, will lead some astray in the North. The Republican party has done for us all that a down-trodden people could expect to have done for them, and more than any other party; and now, as the resolutions express it, I think we ought to stand by them until we see them deviate from their own principles. Then it will be sufficient time for us to come together and say we will turn to the Democratic or Conservative party.

Rev. T. C. SHAFFER, of Newark.—I beg leave to differ with brother McSIMPSON with reference to the adoption of these resolutions manifesting weakness on our part; for they say that as long as we see them right, we are going in that direction; but when the party deviates from the right, we stop, and part from it. I do hope that there is not a member of this Convention but will vote with all the ardor he has for the resolution, showing that we are men, and are trying to do right; and this is a principle of the Convention that I wish may be set up in every heart: that we claim to be identified with the Republican party—the party that claims to be identified with freemen—and I hope there is not one here who will consider this in the light of weak-mindedness, but look upon it as a manifestation of the manhood and principles upon which we stand, and as showing forth to the world that we will stand by the Republican party as long as they stand by the principles set forth in their platform, and no longer, and that we will not follow the lead of such men as

the one who professed to be our MOSES, and led us right into the Red Sea, and there left us to be swallowed up. We are tired of being led by a strange light or beacon that leads us right into the breakers and into the midst of foes. I hope there is no member of this assembly but will vote to sustain these resolutions, that they may go forth to proclaim to the world that we are men, and propose to stand upon our own honorable principles. [Applause.]

Mr. WASHINGTON.—One gentleman spoke of sticking to the Republican party as long as they held to all their great principles and pledges to justice, liberty and equality in this country, and whenever they deviated, he would go over to the Democratic party. Still I must say that I will stick to them until that comes, and then I will halt a long time between two opinions before I will consent to go over to the Democratic party, especially when Judge THURMAN has put some of the planks in the platform. You know that he has labored hard in Ohio, and that his party declares that all the amendments to the constitution are null and void.

After a second reading of the resolution, it was unanimously adopted by a standing vote.

The second resolution was then read, and adopted.

The following resolution was presented:

Resolved, That we will only support the men who will give us the privilege of sitting upon juries.

D. JENKINS.—I am like FRED. DOUGLAS on this point. He said: "We have the cartridge box and the ballot box, and if we don't get into the jury box, we are in a bad box. [Laughter.]

Dr. McSIMPSON.—I would like to ask if there is any law prohibiting colored men from sitting on juries?

Mr. JENKINS.—When the black laws were repealed, that was not, but was amended so as to exclude colored men from the jury box.

Rev. B. W. ARNETT, of Toledo.—As to the law being on the statute books, I cannot say; but I know that in our county a colored man was on a jury in an important case—so that they must be violating the law up there.

A MEMBER said that he thought the law

remained upon the statute books, but was not enforced, as the enfranchisement of the colored man had given them the right to sit on juries.

On motion of R. J. ROBINSON, of Wellington, the resolution was laid on the table.

Mr. JENKINS moved the appointment of a Colored State Central Committee, which met with some opposition.

President BOOKER said that he differed with some of his brethren on that point. There seemed to be a disposition on the part of colored people to ignore anything like an organization among themselves. If they can give me any good reason why, I will submit. I think that we should have a State Central Committee, and that it should be empowered to appoint auxiliary committees. It will take the colored people at least ten years to learn politics; they cannot expect to do it in one year, and just as soon as you are swallowed up, your power is gone, and you are mere machines, to be wound up and run down at pleasure. We are not yet sufficiently educated in politics to contend with these politicians; we have been mere ciphers all our lives. As was once said, by a man, when they used to have one judge and three associates: "Here are one man and three ciphers," and we have always been the ciphers. I tell you, we must educate ourselves up to the standard. I am willing to trust in these tried leaders, and am not quite ready to swap them off. If the opposite party has been favorable towards us, it is very lately, and because there is a likelihood of there being some value in our votes.

Mr. WARD.—I cannot see what need there is for a State Central Committee among us colored people, any more than for two school houses in a district where one will accommodate all. Though many of us are gray-headed, we were never twenty-one until very lately; but now we are of age, and are expected to take care of ourselves. Now the question arises—what do we want with a State Central Committee? We are now voters, and when we want a convention of course we want a general convention, not a pairing off white and colored men separately, and if we are not admitted into the council of the great Sanhedrim on all occasions, we are tending up to-

ward that point, but we can never come up to it unless we contend for it, and if we can not attain to that, we will always be kept down. We have got to mingle and co-mingle with the party that is our friend in this country. Where do you find your State Central Committee among the Irish and German population? You cannot find it—and if anything is wrong, it will be found among the common people, among the masses, and not in separate organizations. We had a colored Representative in the State Convention, and I had hoped that this was the last gathering that we would have in Ohio, under the name of "Colored Men's Convention," and now we are trying to keep this in existence. I hope this resolution will not prevail.

Dr. McSIMPSON.—I would like to ask if the State Central Committee proposed is any different from that among the whites; if its duties are any different, and if it is going to create any distinction, and if it is not to co-operate with the white State Central Committee? The gentleman who just left the floor said that there was no more need of two State Central Committees than of two school houses when one will accommodate all. Are there not two school boards and different school houses in Cincinnati, and the expenses of both defrayed by the same treasury? Now, is there anything wrong in that? The white man has the real business financial power, and whenever we can bring up our thousands, and lay them down beside the white man's dollars, there will be no such political distinction. Now, let us get the legislature of Ohio to remove all disabilities, and blot out distinctions between the white and colored men; but as long as they remain, it is necessary for the colored man to look after the interests of these schools. One of our great wants is colored lawyers for, though we may have laws favorable to us on the statute books, we cannot get redress through the white lawyers; they will get twenty-five or thirty dollars and fumble and fuss around and then say, "I guess I cannot make a case out of it." What is the use of having different churches? Why if we go into the house of God they will say "Negro, take that back seat." We are masons, but how many of us can go into a masonic lodge and work up like a white man? You can't

do it. Now the gentleman says we must not have this colored organization because it is building up a fence between us and the white man. I say it is rather tearing them down. With all respect to the Republican party, I say I hope the resolution will be adopted.

D. JENKINS.—In answer to my friend, over there, who is opposed to this resolution, I would ask why he passes two white Baptist churches on the way, and comes clear up here to the colored one? It is because he cannot enter the white ones on an equal footing. And why does he send his children past several fine school houses to that old hovel over in the alley? Just as soon as we organize, the Republican party all over the country will say amen, because they will know that it is for the purpose of uniting with them as long as they are true to their principles. When the call for this convention was sent out, every member of the Republican executive committee endorsed the circular.

R. J. ROBINSON.—I have heard the subject discussed by the gentlemen, but do not understand that Mr. WARD's question, "What is the object of a State Central Committee?" is yet answered. While I am in favor of the resolution, I think we must have some reasons. I do not understand this to be a political convention, but a convention of the colored citizens of Ohio, to discuss questions relating to their interests, and show to the world that while we are part and parcel of the Republican party, we want our people to go forward and develop. I would rather that this State Central Committee were appointed with a view to finding out the wealth of our people and the numbers of mechanics and educated men, and how our children stand in the schools, and how much talent we possess, than any thing else I know of in God's world, but the same feeling seems to influence some here that did some of the Israelites when MOSES, under God, was leading them out of Egypt. They were constantly crying "Let us go back into Egypt." [Laughter.] Now when we call a convention let us say, come one, come all, but if the white man won't come, let us go forward and attend to it ourselves, and when they hold a convention do you suppose we will ask the right to go in?

We have a right to go there. The door is open and why don't you go in? And when they kick us out let us hold a political convention and consider what is best to do. We must not think that we have no rights when the XIIIth, XIVth, and XVth amendments declare that without regard to race or color, we are free men! *we are free men!* And in God's name I demand those rights, and I will have them. [Applause.]

WALKER EWING, of Columbus.—When the gentleman speaks of going back into Egypt, he almost makes my blood run cold. One reason why we want that committee is that our rights are not equal to those of the white man, only so far as casting the vote is concerned: for instance, we have institutions, in Columbus where a colored man cannot enter. It cannot be supposed that every colored man in the State of Ohio can at once obtain redress for all wrongs; it is impossible. How are we to do? We will speak through the State Central Committee; it will be the medium through which we can speak to the law-making powers, and they to us. Now about those school houses. We have two school houses in this district, one located on a dirty alley and another higher up that will hold several hundred pupils. I will ask where are the colored children? Sir, they cannot enter this school house. That is what we want this State Central Committee for, to look after these things. We do not want to keep up distinct organizations, but we are suffering for rights enjoyed by white men all around us, notwithstanding we have our votes; but through this committee we can gain measures that we could not but for our votes.

Mr. WASHINGTON.—I am in favor of this resolution. The prejudices of the white man against the colored man are as thick as the walls were around Jerusalem. You say that you do not see the use of the committee. Must we be submerged into the republican party and sit down and let them do all for us? Have not they forced you to build up separate organizations, separate school houses and separate churches? If you go to the synagogue and ask admission they will say, "Why you had better go to the colored church." If you go to the table of the Lord's Supper, you are met by the priest with a face as long as a

horse trough, who says "My dear colored brother, you must wait until the white men have partaken and then you are welcome to come and take of the slops," and this in the house of God. The law provides for us, but can we take the benefit of it? No; they have laid down the lines of demarkation and say to us, "Negro, you are darker than I am, please stand on the other side." I am willing to intermingle with a white population when I can do it without degradation. Why don't my friend, who spoke against the committee, send his children to the big school house, instead of the hovel on the alley? He cannot do it.

The resolution was put to vote and carried, and the following persons appointed as the committee:

David Jenkins (Chairman).....	Columbus.
Rev. J. P. Underwood.....	Columbus.
John Booker.....	Columbus.
Edward Jackson.....	Xenia.
C. D. Shaeffer.....	Newark.
Rev. J. Poindexter.....	Columbus.
R. W. Arnett.....	Toledo.
Dr. J. McSimpson.....	Zanesville.
John Cain.....	London.

On motion of Rev. J. P. UNDERWOOD, chairman of the Business committee, the Muskingum county memorial was referred to the executive committee.

Dr. MCSIMPSON presented the following:

Resolved, That we recommend the study of law to the colored young men of our State, and if they cannot gain admission into the regular law schools, we recommend the establishment of a law school for this purpose.

A failure on the part of many to notice closely the phraseology of this resolution, gave rise to quite a warm and lengthy discussion, at the close of which it was decided that it did not advocate the establishment of law schools for colored men unless all efforts to obtain admission to the white law schools failed, in which case it would be the only course left to them.

It was moved to amend, by inserting the word "encourage," which was accepted and the resolution read as follows:

Resolved, That we recommend and encourage the study of law etc. Adopted.

PRESIDENT GRANT.

The business committee offered the following:

Resolved, That this convention unanimously endorse the administration of President

U. S. Grant, and that he is our first choice for President in 1872.

REV. J. POINDEXTER moved to amend the resolution so as to read:

Resolved, That this convention unanimously endorse the administration of President Grant, and that he is our first choice for President in 1872; provided that nothing herein shall be construed as expressive of an opinion on the controversy between President Grant and Hon. Charles Sumner.

R. A. PINN, of Massilon, said: I do not claim that Gen. GRANT's administration has been free from imperfections, but he has been our friend in the dark hours, and is deserving of all the honors colored men can confer upon him, and we should support him. I was a soldier under him and lost my right arm, and with my left I intend to cast a vote for him if he is nominated. I was sent here with instructions to vote for this resolution, and may be expected to do so.

By the request of many members, REV. J. POINDEXTER, made the following explanation of his reference to the controversy between General GRANT and CHARLES SUMNER: I would say that there rages, just now, a hot controversy between Gen. GRANT and CHARLES SUMNER, with reference to the acquisition of the island of San Domingo. CHARLES SUMNER—a life-long friend of the colored man—entered the United States Senate when abolitionism brought with it opprobrium and then began fighting in our behalf, and has never faltered. He is conscientiously impressed with the idea that the acquisition of San Domingo would be detrimental to the interests of the colored people the world over. On the other hand, Gen. GRANT sees large advantages to the people of the United States by its acquisition. Gov. HAYES said to him: "The people are not with you in that." Said he: "Generally the people do not understand it." We have both the men before us. It is true that Gen. GRANT is the only man who has issued an inaugural, corresponding with the declaration of independence; the only man who has written a message in accordance with the constitution; the only man who has done all that could be asked by any people, necessary for the purpose of securing equal rights to the colored people of the United States.

Now, as these two men stand before us, and as General GRANT is in power, and because CHARLES SUMNER entered the controversy for the colored people, when it cost something to do so, therefore we ought to pass the resolution so as to express this. Gen. GRANT has taken more risk and censure, and done more to further the interests of the colored people than many colored people would have done themselves. His contemporaries admit that he is an honest man, and his history will pass down to posterity, and will shine with additional lustre, and never grow dim with age, but will brighten on to eternity. CHARLES SUMNER stands out and says to the colored man: "You are a man just like any other man." He urged them to qualify themselves for places, and said: "Do not stoop and cringe, and bow, and beg; you are citizens of the United States, and invested with all the rights of citizenship. Maintain your citizenship and demand your rights." That is CHARLES SUMNER. Now, when we have these two men before us, when we praise one, let us not do it so as to leave any doubt of our true regard for the other. [Cries of "true, true," and great applause.]

The resolution as amended was unanimously adopted by a standing vote.

On motion of Mr. JENKINS, it was agreed to send a copy of the report to the President of the United States.

The business committee presented the following:

WHEREAS, We believe that the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage is a great curse to the land, and that the time has come when every man should take a firm and decided stand against the rum power, therefore

Resolved, That we use our utmost endeavor to bring all with whom we have influence, up to the same high standard on the temperance question.

On motion of Rev. B. W. ARNETT, the State Central Committee was empowered to appoint auxiliary committees in the different counties or districts of the state.

The publishers of the OHIO CONVENTION REPORTER, having submitted a proposition to report and publish the proceedings of the Convention, in their magazine, provided one thousand copies were taken by the convention, and four hundred having been subscribed

for by individual members, a resolution was adopted, authorizing the State Central Committee to take six hundred copies for distribution.

A resolution of thanks was voted to the reporters for the press and officers of the convention, for their faithful discharge of duties, and to Mr. JOHN DUFFY, for the gratuitous use of his hall.

After singing the doxology, the convention adjourned *sine die*.

County Central Committees.

Belmont.—Jas. L. Rivers, Wm. Fletcher, George Jackson, George Stephens and John Anderson.

Brown.—A. N. Freeman, E. Tilton, J. S. Atwood, E. Henderson and H. N. Welsh.

Butler.—Rev. M. W. Walker, Ira A. Collins, L. Hazzard, John Johns and H. N. Welsh.

Champaign.—H. H. Ford, W. A. Mann, W. Hawkins, N. Rector and Wm. Hendley.

Clarke.—J. J. Whetsell, J. W. Moore, John Howard, H. Brown and C. Jones.

Clermont.—Henry H. Johnson, Moses Brown, Henry Fox, Daniel Boone and Rev. Asa Pratt.

Columbiana.—T. B. Caldwell, George Wiley, A. White, Wm. Barrett and Charles Hill.

Cuyahoga.—Jno. Malvin, J. Holland, Abel Starkey, R. W. Henderson and J. W. Starkey.

Darke.—James Clemens, D. R. Mason, W. H. McCown, J. W. Holland and Wm. Okey.

Delaware.—Samuel White, Jr., John Highwarden Leman Block, F. D. Merritt and J. J. Williamson.

Fairfield.—Nelson Smith, John Vina, Wm. Vina, Quarles Tibbs and Andrew Lilly.

Fayette.—Alexander Anderson, J. L. Thornton, Wm. Henry, J. H. Evans and Mr. Chester.

Greene.—J. R. Jackson, S. Troy, Thos. A. Conrad, John Cozzens and C. L. Maxwell.

Hamilton.—P. H. Clark, N. P. H. Jones, William Daines, Rev. Wallace Shelton, Richard Fortson, J. H. Troy, C. W. Bell, John Mann and J. N. C. Liverpool.

Highland.—W. H. Hackley, H. T. Gay, C. R. Patterson, R. B. Nash and F. Johnson.

Jefferson.—Wm. Farris, Wm. O. Walker, D. S. Bruce, A. Epps, D. Cooper, J. L. Champ and Peter Stokes.

Logan.—James Artis, James Hicks, Tapley D. Bray, Peyton Outland and James W. Bray.

Lorain.—John Watson, Sabram Cox and J. R. Robinson.

Lucas.—J. W. Young, J. M. Bell, D. E. Young, George Fields, Henry Jackson, Robert Mussenburgh, W. H. Merritt, G. H. White and John Watkins.

Madison.—James H. Cain, Edward Mumford, Geo. White, Henry McGee and Spradley Betts.

Marion.—A. P. Henderson, J. Highwarden, H. Brown, Wm. Highwarden and Wm. Robinson.

Mercer.—F. S. Banks, Greene Keith, W. O. Tanner, W. Livingston and Henry Hurd.

Muskingum.—Dr. J. C. McSimpson, J. A. Guy, Wesley Gassaway A. G. Guy and R. J. Tate.

Pickaway.—John Dickerson, William Stanup, H. S. Hudson, Benj. Hudson and George Blake.

Summit.—Chas. Brown, W. R. Hall and W. Louis.

Tuscarawas.—J. L. Manley, J. Cunningham, R. Webster, S. Thompson and J. Lee.

Warren.—W. H. Liverpool, J. G. Lewis, Thomas Aenford, Henry Parker and John Horton.

Editorial Miscellany.

Mr. James S. Waring.

This gentleman whose acquaintance we made at the Colored Men's State Convention, and who is the principal of the Colored schools in this city, we have found to be an excellent phonographer. A considerable portion of our short-hand notes of the Colored Men's Convention, and also of the Dairymen's Convention has been quite correctly transcribed by Mr. WARING.

A Treat in Store for Our Readers.

In the report of the Dairymen's State Convention, which we will issue about the 1st of March, will be found some addresses of unusual interest and excellence. It is seldom that we have an opportunity to phonograph a more instructive and deeply interesting address than that delivered by Hon. JAMES MONROE, on "Farming in Brazil." The address of C. W. HERR, Esq., on "The Moral and Intellectual Needs of the Agricultural Classes," is also one of rare value. These addresses alone will be almost worth the yearly subscription price of the REPORTER.

Appreciation of the Reporter.

The REPORTER is frequently warmly commended in the private letters we receive. The following extract from a letter recently received from one of the leading educators in the State, will show the estimation in which it is held by those able to judge of its merits: "For myself, I could not do without the REPORTER, and it seems to me that every person in the State, who desires to preserve in a permanent and convenient form, the living thoughts of our people assembled in convention, should have it."

The editor of one of the best and sprightliest daily papers in the State, in a communication to us on business matters, says:

"I value your 'Convention Reporter' highly, and have just had vol. I, bound."

Removal.

Since our last issue we have removed our office to a more central position, being now located opposite Capitol Square, at No. 8 Buckeye Block, East Broad street, where we will be happy to have our friends and patrons call on us.

PROSPECTUS

OF THE

Ohio Convention Reporter,

FOR 1871.

All the enterprises of this progressive age have their *Associations and Conventions*. Especially are those engaged in moral reform and the spread of religious principles working through this means, and their deliberations are more deeply engaging the attention of people than ever before. The work of the Convention is of vital importance, designed to impart valuable instruction and to infuse new life into the enterprise in the interest of which it is held. Here men of the greatest experience report the result of their labors, exchange their views and sentiments, and devise and perfect plans for the future.

But because of the imperfect reports often made and the lack of suitable medium through which the reports of Conventions can be circulated and preserved, *much of their influence for good has been lost*. Particularly has this been the case with respect to the extempore addresses and discussions which are generally the most interesting and instructive features of these gatherings. *It is conceded on all hands that only by the aid of short-hand can accurate and satisfactory reports of extempore addresses be made.*

The "CONVENTION REPORTER," has been established to supply this long felt and increasing want in our periodical literature, and is devoted EXCLUSIVELY to reports of Conventions, giving without bias, comment or criticism, full and accurate reports of the most important gatherings of the different religious denominations, Sabbath School Conventions, Social, Educational, Temperance and other important Conventions held in the State, containing PHONOGRAPHIC REPORTS of the more important discussions, and best SPEECHES and SERMONS as they fall fresh from the lips of earnest workers.

Besides the reports of State Conventions, a brief record or report will be made of District or County Associations, thus keeping our readers informed with regard to the work being done by these in different sections of the State. Being bound in pamphlet form, and disconnected from all other matter, it will be particularly valuable for preservation and future reference forming a history of the various important enterprises of the eventful era in which we live.

The REPORTER will be issued semi-monthly, or twenty-four numbers during the year, each number containing sixteen pages as the minimum size, and the volume for the year over four hundred pages.

TERMS:

Single copy per year.....	\$ 1.50
Clubs of five per year.....	6.50
Clubs of ten per year.....	12.00
Clubs of twenty per year.....	20.00
Single numbers.....	10 cents each, post paid

Large Pay for Little Work.

We offer to those who obtain subscribers for the "Reporter," splendid inducements in

PREMIUMS OR CASH,**For their Work.**

If you want one of the very best Weekly Papers Published in Ohio, the Cincinnati Weekly *Chronicle*, you can get it and the "Convention Reporter" through us for the price of the *Chronicle* alone, which is \$2.00; thus getting a first-class weekly paper at the usual price, and the

Convention Reporter Free.

If you desire first-class periodicals, Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, or other valuable articles,

Without the Outlay of Money,
Examine our Premium List.

Ladies,

If you want an excellent Sewing Machine, Knitting Machine, or other valuable articles, here is an opportunity to get them without paying the cash for them.

Boys and Girls,

Do you want a Beautiful Microscope, or Stereoscope with splendid views, or Choice Magazines, or the Toy Steam Engine, so enthusiastically endorsed by the editors of the *American Agriculturist*, for yourselves, you can easily obtain them by getting your parents and a few friends to subscribe for our valuable Magazine, the "Convention Reporter."

We will furnish any one or more of the following premiums for the number of subscribers for the "Convention Reporter" set opposite the price:

	Price.	No. of Sub's.
One copy of the Reporter, 1 yr.	\$1 50	3
Webster's Unabridged Dictionary.....	12 00	20
Webster's National Pictorial Dictionary.....	6 00	10
The Wilson Shuttle Sewing Machine.....	40 00	40
The Hinkley Knitting Machine.....	30 00	36
The celebrated Craig microscope.....	2 75	4
Stereoscope, \$2.00, 1 doz. views \$2.50.....	4 50	6
Stereoscope, \$3.00, 1 doz. views, 1 Amer., \$2.50, 1 foreign, \$3.00.....	8 50	10
The Dollar Steam Engine.....	1 38	3

CLUBBING RATES FOR 1871.

By an arrangement with publishers, we are enabled to furnish other publications at greatly reduced prices, when clubbed with the "Reporter." Subscriptions may still be sent in, and back numbers supplied. The following are the clubbing rates:

	Price alone	With Reporter
The Bright Side (weekly).....	\$1 00	1 75
Wood's Household Magazine.....	1 25	1 75
Children's Hour.....	1 25	2 00
Our School Visitor.....	1 25	2 00
The Nursery.....	1 50	2 20
The Little Corporal.....	1 50	2 20
American Agriculturist.....	1 50	2 10
Arthur's Home Magazine.....	2 00	2 50
The Ohio Farmer.....	2 00	2 50
Hearth and Home.....	3 00	3 60
Cincinnati Weekly Chronicle.....	2 00	2 00
Harper's Weekly.....	4 00	4 25
Harper's Monthly.....	4 00	4 25
Harper's Bazar.....	4 00	4 25

Any of the leading periodicals, not given in the above list, will be clubbed with the "Reporter" at a reduction of twenty-five per cent. from the combined price of the two.

As all publications are sent direct from the publishers, after the first number is received, all complaints of irregularity should be sent to them.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS.

1. Persons raising clubs need not be confined to a single post-office. The time for completing clubs is not limited, but we expect a report about once in two weeks.

2. The money must always accompany the names, which should be very plainly written, giving post-office, county and State.

3. We consider it safe to enclose small amounts in letters; but they will be at our risk only when sent by draft, registered letter or post-office money order, drawn on Columbus office. The receipt of the "Reporter" is sufficient evidence that we have received the subscription. Should the parties not receive it within a reasonable time, they will please notify us, giving full particulars.

4. If premiums do not arrive in a day or two after ordered, do not be alarmed. There are circumstances which sometimes unavoidably delay them.

5. All clubs for premiums should contain a statement to that effect; and also the premium desired. Otherwise there may be some errors.

6. Always enclose a stamp when you expect a reply.

Send Prospectus and specimen numbers of the "Reporter" sent on application to

J. G. ADEL & CO.,

Columbus, Ohio.