

MASS MEETING OF THE COLORED CITIZENS OF CHICAGO.

KNOWLEDGE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS.

The colored citizens of Chicago held an enthusiastic mass meeting on Monday evening, December 28th, 1853. On motion of John Jones, William Smith was called to the chair, and J. D. Bonner appointed Secretary. On motion of Byrd Parker, John Jones stated the object of the meeting. On motion of H. O. Wagoner, a committee of seven was appointed to report resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting.

The following persons were appointed said committee:—J. D. Bonner, William Johnson, John Jones, R. H. Rollins, C. W. Campbell, Byrd Parker and H. O. Wagoner. The committee then reported the following preamble and resolutions, which were taken up by sections and unanimously adopted.

Whereas, at the anniversary meeting of the A. A. S. Society, held at Syracuse, N. Y., 1851, at which meeting our esteemed friend and brother, Frederick Douglass, whom we are free to acknowledge as a bold, faithful, and manly advocate of most, if not all, of the reformatory movements of the times; and, whereas, we especially regard him as the prominent leaders advocate, and exponent of the wrongs and demands of the colored people of the U. S. And whereas, at said meeting referred to, Frederick Douglass boldly and frankly announced his change of views and opinions, harmonizing with those of Lyander Spooner, Gerritt Smith, Rev. S. R. Ward, and William Goodell, in regarding the Constitution of the U. S. as an anti-slavery document. And whereas, we conceive it to be, not only the right, but also the duty which every man owes to the cause of truth, justice and humanity, to change his views and opinions whenever he arrives at a deliberate and well settled conviction of his errors,—that he should at once abandon the wrong and adopt the right.

And whereas, we have noticed with feelings of deep regret and mortification, for some months past, a number of articles, at different times, in the columns of the *Liberator*, *N. A. Slavery Standard*, *Penn. Freeman*, and *Anti-Slavery Bugle*, which are, in the opinion of this meeting, most cruel and unjustifiable attempts on the part of the conductors of those journals to destroy the influence and usefulness of Frederick Douglass, as an anti-slavery reformer. And whereas, the able and dignified defence of Mr. Douglass against all those illiberal and personal attacks, is in the opinion of this meeting, a triumphant and complete vindication of his character as a true reformer and honorable man herefore:

Resolved, That the unchristian and unfeeling articles in the journals referred to—the base and unscrupulous charges and insinuations so often made, intended to destroy, not only his influence as an Editor and a Lecturer, but also as a man and a Christian,—merits and should receive the lasting and withering rebuke of all true friends of the rights of our oppressed people.

Resolved, That we regard Frederick Douglass as an able champion and defender of the rights of the colored people of the United States, and that they, the colored people, will promote their true interest by giving to his efforts as an editor and a lecturer, their active sympathy and approval, and to his paper their generous support.

Resolved, That it is with surprise and regret that we find colored men of acknowledged intelligence and moral worth, actually engaged in this vile crusade against one who has proved himself an ornament to, and a benefactor of, his race.

Resolved, That the sentiment put forth by Mr. Garrison, that the Anti-Slavery cause, both religiously and politically, has transcended the ability of the sufferers of American slavery and prejudice, as a class, to keep pace with it, or to perceive what are its demands, or to understand the philosophy of its operations, is insulting to the intelligence of colored men, and we are thus forced to stamp it with a unanimous disapproval.

Resolved, That we earnestly and respectfully invite the attention of the State Councils, and of the colored people throughout the Free States, to examine, discuss, and make themselves familiar with the grand questions involved in this difficulty.—1st. The pro-slavery and anti-slavery character of the Constitution of the United States. 2dly. The circumstances connected with and immediately concerning Frederick Douglass' change of views and opinions on this subject.—3dly. The present difficulty growing out of the whole matter,—And, lastly, that after examining thoroughly the whole affair, so as to be enabled to arrive at correct conclusions, we may then give an intelligent judgment, and assume a decisive position.

Resolved, That the invasion by the *Liberator* of the sacred privacy of the domestic relations of Mr. Douglass' family, should meet the frowns and execration of all honorable men; and that the resorting to such an undignified and unmanly course seems to evince the utter weakness of his tirade against Mr. Douglass.

Whereas, since it is pretty generally conceded that "we mean to remain here"—at least, the "great body of our people,"—and work out our destiny in this country, therefore,

Resolved, That in contending for our civil and political rights, we plant ourselves firmly upon the principles of the *Declaration of Independence*, and the Preamble and the Constitution of the United States.

ILLIAM SMITH,

J. D. BONNER, Secy.

Chairman.