

Mass Meeting of the Colored People of Chicago.

Last night a numerously attended mass meeting of our colored citizens was held at the African M. E. Church, corner of Jackson street and Fourth Avenue, to give expression to their feelings and take some public action in relation to the recent act of Congress abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia. At 8 o'clock the meeting was organized by the appointment of J. B. Dawson as temporary Chairman, and R. C. Waring Secretary. A committee consisting of J. Stanly, E. R. Williams and L. Isbell, was appointed to present the names of permanent officers of the meeting. The committee reported as follows: President, John Jones; Vice-Presidents, Rev. J. F. Boulden, Rev. W. A. Dove, John James, H. Campbell and Wm. Alexander; Secretary, R. C. Waring. The report being accepted, these gentlemen were called to fill the positions for which they were named.

On motion, a committee of twelve was appointed to prepare and present a report expressive of the sentiments entertained by the meeting. The following persons constituted that Committee: W. R. Bonner, M. L. Lewis, E. R. Williams, L. Isbell, H. Bradford, J. Patrick, J. F. Platt, J. L. Thomas, G. Lee, Montgomery and Jackson. After the Committee had retired, the meeting was addressed by Rev. Mr. Broady, of Canada West. At the close of Mr. Broady's remarks—which were enthusiastically received—the Committee reported a preamble and series of resolutions, which were then taken up and acted upon separately. Each section was laid open for discussion, and a free expression was elicited. Interesting speeches were made by J. Stanley, Rev. Mr. Dove, Messrs. Freeman, Williams, Bungay of Galesburg, and others. The preamble and resolutions, which we give below, were adopted by a unanimous vote:

WHEREAS, Certain journals in the city of Chicago, and elsewhere, having assailed, vilified, and unjustly misrepresented the colored people in this country, charging them as being worthless, indolent and incapable of self government or control, unfit to enjoy the blessings of *freemen* in common with their white brethren, repudiating also the recent act emancipating the slave in the District of Columbia as well as in the States now in open rebellion against the Government, and,

WHEREAS, An impression prevails throughout the Northern loyal States that in the event of emancipation the influx of the freed slaves to the North would be great, and as this impression is not confined to those who are opposed to emancipation or confiscation; and

WHEREAS, This fear is calculated to retard the consummation of such measures as would otherwise be adopted for bringing the present war to a speedy close, besides the enacting of laws by Legislatures and even State Constitutional Conventions, debaring migration to Northern States of persons of African blood; therefore,

Resolved, That we consider it a duty which we owe to ourselves and our race, to repel the charges made against us; also against a government which is gradually wiping from her escutcheons the foul stain of slavery.

Resolved, That as colored Americans, who have been enslaved for over eighty years, and suffered much from the unceasing scourge of our political enemies, we are now and ever have been *loyal* to a government oppressing us, and that we heartily approve the recent act of Congress in emancipating the slaves in the District of Columbia.

Resolved, That the States now in rebellion are Slave States, the rebels being the white inhabitants of those States; nine-tenths of the colored people of the United States, are natives of these rebel States, yet not one colored man can be found whose sympathies are with the rebellion.

Resolved, That though we have been denied permission to aid in defending our country, we nevertheless thank our soldiers for their valor in her defense and the cause of human liberty.

Resolved, That we regard Abraham Lincoln, that honest man, (which is the noblest work of God) as standing above any President which has ever filled the Executive Chair, and more especially in signing the act emancipating the slaves in the District of Columbia. This we consider the noblest of deeds. May he ever live in the affections of our people throughout the land to the latest generation, and when he shall be called to rest from his labors of love and good deeds, may this act ever be an angel by his side.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting (and we speak advisedly for the masses of our people) that the abolition of slavery in the Southern States will result in the general migration of the colored people of the North to the South.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in all the journals of the city, and copies sent to the President of the United States and to our representatives in Congress.

The meeting, in all its details, was at once harmonious and enthusiastic—evincing clearly the spirit with which colored people hail the first important step towards the emancipation of their oppressed race.

After the adoption of the preamble and resolutions, the meeting adjourned *sine die*.