

## A COLORED LOVE-FEAST.

### A Reception to Colored Delegates Marked by Many Speeches.

#### Blaine's Name Hailed with Great Enthusiasm— An Address by Fred Douglass.

A reception was given last night at the First Regiment Cavalry quarters to the colored delegates and their friends attending the convention by the colored citizens of Chicago under the auspices of St. George's Commandery Knights Templar. The large hall was crowded, every available foot of space being occupied. The platform was decorated with flags. The colored Knights' band furnished music before the speaking commenced. About half-past 8 o'clock the M. S. Quay marched in headed by a brass band. A large portion of the audience was composed of white people, a number of them being delegates. At 9 o'clock W. E. Thomas, of Chicago, called the meeting to order. He said that owing to a great deal of caucusing among the politicians the speakers were late in arriving. Fred Douglass had just sent word that he would arrive in half an hour.

The Rev. John Laws, of Chicago, delivered the opening address. He hoped the visit of the delegates here would be crowned with success. He said that he would not be so lucky as to get in the convention, but he could do like Saint John, who got near to Heaven without getting in, but was near enough to hear them singing a new song. The speaker could get so near the convention as to hear them talking. They were not here as black men, but as delegates, and their votes were just as important as those of their white brethren. They also came as the representatives of their race.

#### DEMANDS OF COLORED DELEGATES.

Fred Douglass entered at this juncture and the applause that greeted him was deafening. When it subsided Mr. Laws continued. The colored people demanded, he said, a plank in the platform of the Republican party recognizing the colored race. His race had no intellectual superior. Give them money and educational institutions and they would show themselves. It had been said that the race would die out, but instead of that they were increasing at the rate of 33 per cent and after a while they would outnumber other races. The speaker mentioned Arthur's name, but only one or two cheered; but when Blaine's name was mentioned the cheers were deafening. The speaker declared his choice to be Gen. Logan. It had been a great honor conferred upon the race, the appointment of a colored man for Temporary Chairman.

#### ARTHUR WON'T SUIT THEM.

John P. Green, a member of the Ohio Legislature, was introduced. He said there was a sentiment gradually creeping into the Republican party, and that was that the colored man should stick to the party simply to pay a debt of gratitude. They owed their liberty not only to the white man but to the colored man. The party must not expect them to serve it merely for gratitude. They wanted a law that would protect the colored man the same as the white man. Arthur might be a good man, but the colored race wanted a President who would see that their rights are protected in the South and that their votes are counted. That was the man they wanted. [Cries, "That's Blaine."] The colored children were sent to a shabby little schoolhouse, while in the same district white children had better facilities. They say that a Chinaman can marry a white woman, an Indian can, a Jew can, but a man having a few drops of colored blood can't. Not that they wanted a white woman, because they could marry one as dark as they liked and as light as they could desire. But a colored man had a right to marry a white woman if he wanted to. He wanted a law like God's—for all men. But with all its faults he loved the Republican party still, and would vote its ticket for gratitude.

Jesse Lawson, of New Jersey, said it showed the strength of his race when today the convention threw aside all precedents and elected a colored man to preside over its deliberations.

After music by the band J. D. Pointdexter, of Columbus, O., said that he felt it an imposition on the audience to speak when they wanted to hear Mr. Douglass, whom he pronounced as great a man as ever lived.

Ex-Congressman John R. Lynch, of Mississippi, was introduced, and said that he was so fatigued that he would have to decline making a speech, and he expected hard work tomorrow. He was proud to see in the great City of Chicago so much interest manifested by the colored people in the convention that would nominate the next President of the United States. The Republican party was the only home for the colored men, and they should remain devoted and true to it.

#### DOUGLASS SPEAKS.

Frederick Douglass was then introduced amid great applause. He said that they had been greatly imposed upon if they believed all that had been said of him tonight. [Cries of "Louder."] "Then you want it louder," said the speaker. "You are never satisfied. You are a discontented race. I have been asked to make a ten-minute speech. I never made a short speech in my life that satisfied me, and I never made a long speech that pleased any one else."

Forty years ago, he said, he stood alone with a solitary voice in the wilderness. Now, when he looked around and saw an army of young colored orators who had tongues that could inflame any audience, he felt that he had lost his mission and he should remain silent. When the convention elected Lynch Temporary Chairman a blow was struck at prejudice. He did not want to flatter the colored people as they had been flattered by Dr. Laws. The colored people were no better than they ought to be; not half as good; never were superior to any other race; never would be superior; but they were equal. But practically they were not equal. A white man could build a big ship and the colored man only a small canoe. The white man could make a watch and the colored man could only tell the time. No; they were not equal to the white man. The white man makes books and it takes the colored people all their lives to find out what is in them. But the white man was once as bad. The proud Anglo-Saxon race once wore brass collars on their necks with their master's name upon them.

#### THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

He would talk politics now, he said. There were some colored fellows who wanted an independent party. That was foolish, as none could exist. They must either depend on the Republican or Democratic party. Some said: "Come out of the Republican party." That would never do, as it was raining outside of it; it was cold and fierce. True, the roof of the party might leak, but a leaky roof was better than none. He said he was still colored, although some persons had tried to read him out because he did in one direction what his father did in another without a marriage license. One man said to him he had disgraced himself, but it was only prejudice against color.