PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE COLORED CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
HELD IN THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO, DEC. 9th, 10th, 11th, AND 12th, 1856.

FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONVENTION

Morning Session, December 9th, 1856.

The delegates appointed by the colored citizens of the various Assembly Districts of the State, to hold a Convention on the 9th day of December, in the City of Sacramento, met pursuant to call at the A.M.E. Church.

Mr. J. B. Townsend, of San Francisco, Chairman of the State Executive Committee, called the meeting to order, and proposed that delegates at large proceed to appoint a Chairman and Secretary, pro temp., preparatory to the permanent organization of the Convention. On motion of J. B. Sanderson and Geo. W. Booth, the list of delegations to the Convention, and that they be accredited as representing the assembly districts in which they reside; this motion was submitted as amendatory of the report of the Committee on credentials, and adopted.

The motion of Mr. J. B. Townsend moved that a committee be appointed to consist of one from each of the counties represented, to report a list of officers for the permanent organization of this convention. A discussion ensued as to the most satisfactory mode of appointing the committee as proposed in the motion of Mr. Townsend, in which Messrs. Hall, Phelps, Newby, Lewis, Henry, Moore, and others participated.

Mr. J. B. Johnson, of Butte, suggested that in appointing this committee we adopt the course pursued by the convention last year. On examination, Mr. Townsend's motion was found to be in accordance with the course taken last year, and it was adopted without further debate. The chairman appointed the following gentlemen as the committee on nominating officers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>W. H. Harper</th>
<th>Alameda</th>
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<tr>
<td>F. R. Phelps</td>
<td>El Dorado</td>
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<tr>
<td>G. F. Fletcher</td>
<td>Sacramento</td>
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<tr>
<td>R. A. Hall</td>
<td>Butte</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. B. Young</td>
<td>Shasta</td>
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The Nominating Committee, through their chairman, Mr. H. Harper, presented the following report:

For President—Wm. H. Hall, Butte County.
For Vice Presidents—R. B. Young, Shasta County.
For Secretaries—J. B. Sanderson, El Dorado County.
Howard. not until to-morrow morning to prepare their report for the of the Business Committee, requested to truth begins to dawn. May God control our thoughts, our to be devoted to the interests of the colored people of the present convention. effort; the eyes of the public are up qualified to put the subject; he had thought seven be appointed by the object, when it should at some later period come up before union was whom must inevitably secure the same results to us. So peculiar are the circumstances and conditions amid which we live in our native country; of those need not speak in detail; experience has made us familiar with them and for my own part, my hopes of my people, and the advancement of those qualities which give dignity to men, and command for them the respect of their fellow, must inevitably secure the same results to us. Gentlemen, our work is before us; we are forced to it having a chart to guide us in the convention of last year; allow me to repeat, that we shall trust to your kindness and intelligence to aid me in the discharge of my duties in preserving order and in prosecuting wise and efficient action; my God, may the day when, as a people, we shall be truly free and independent, After the applause which followed the President’s speech had subsided, the chaplain, Rev. J. J. Moore was introduced, and addressed the convention as follows: Gentlemen—I thank you for the honor conferred upon me by appointing me your chaplain. It is very gratifying to me to know, that in the beginning we acknowledged our obligations to, and our dependence upon our Creator and Heavenly Father; this is well. We are engaged in a good work, no less than the improvement of our moral, political, and intellectual improvement. He that holds the lives of men in his keeping; that brings forth trembling upon their hearts because of their evil doing. He can give us the victory over all opposition; in our labors prosecuting a righteous cause, nothing of the courts of California, and that he could not favor any other of American and present to the convention a report upon the subject of equal school rights. He was opposed to the motion as proposed in the call. Afternoon Session, First Day. At 4 o’clock, P.M., the convention was called to order by President Hall. The throne of grace was addressed by the chaplain, Rev. J. J. Moore. The Secretary then read the proceedings of the morning session, which were approved. J. H. Townsend, chairman of the Business Committee, requested that the committee be allowed until to-morrow morning to prepare their report for the action of the convention. The request was granted. Mr. Townsend then introduced the resolution, viz.: That this afternoon CALIFORNIA, 1856
be devoted to the hearing of remarks of delegates, one from each county, represented, and that fifteen be allowed each delegate.

Mr. Ferguson proposed to amend the resolution by the words, "and that each delegate be called in the order in which the credentials were handed in," adopted and the resolution adopted. The names were called in the following order, on the part of Sonoma county. G. W. Miller responded:

A. Steele, .................. Marin.
B. B. Young, ................ Shasta.
J. Francis, .................... Nevada.
E. A. Booth, .................. Butte.
Mr. Robinson, ................ San Joaquin.
R. Hall, ....................... San Mateo.
I. B. Young, .................. Plumas.
N. F. Henry, ................... Tuolumne.
D. Lewis, ...................... Sacramento.
T. Better, ...................... Placer.

The afternoon, from 4 to 7, was thus occupied, and much valuable information communicated, embracing statistics of population, business, wealth, and character of the colored people living in the counties represented, and continuing an effort to change the one and a half per cent to two per cent which have been adopted. If it is a gross sophism, it assumes to benefit and protect. It is a misfortune which has been and never will be tolerated.

Mr. Emory, of Placerville, said:

"We do not want the law which will make colored men the victims of bitter prejudice and discrimination.

"We are resolved to let them see that all we want is an equal chance, an open field, and a fair fight.

If they will dig the mountains down,

We will dig the rivers dry;

And if they can the color raise,

We certainly can try.

"We intend to disprove the allegation that we are naturally inferior to them. They are the colored people of Nevada county. They are a poor community of $300,000 in mine claims, water and ditch stock, and some real estate. We have one church, but no permanent school-house; a company is about forming to build one, to which many of the people residing there, variously employed, are attached. A few are farmers and mechanics, a small number are engaged in trading, but the majority of them are miners. It is with pride I say it, we are showing to our white fellow-citizens that we have some natural abilities; we are resolved to let them see that all we want is an equal chance, an open field, and a fair fight.

The colored people of Nevada county possess property to the amount of $300,000, in mine claims, water and ditch stock, and some real estate. We have one church, but no permanent school-house; a company is about forming to build one. A few are farmers and mechanics, a small number are engaged in trading, but the majority of them are miners. It is with pride I say it, we are showing to our white fellow-citizens that we have some natural abilities; we are resolved to let them see that all we want is an equal chance, an open field, and a fair fight.

Mr. Emory and rarely does he fail to obtain redress; but here, in this department of the law, the courts enforce. What redress have we from the legal tribunal? What protection from injustice have we? Even the ministers of the law are often compelled to stifle their convictions of right or wrong, and do violence to their sense of justice under this enactment.

Mr. President, I do not believe this state of things can last; the people of this State cannot be interested in upholding and continuing an act which never has been and never can be made compatible with the safety and security of the lives and property of those persons of every race.

Mr. Newby remarked, "I hope that Delegates will endeavor to be punctual in their attendance on the Sessions of the Convention, so that we may confer in harmony and harmony, and that the law may be interpreted, and the judges interpret, and that the law may be interpreted, and the judges interpret, and that the law may have that sense of justice which we have had."

The resolution was carried by the following vote:

Mr. Gordon moved that Mr. David Seals, of San Francisco, be invited to take a seat as a Delegate.

Mr. Newby objected; he said, "I hope this motion will not pass. The colored people of Placerville, Whence Mr. Lawrence comes, are not guilty of great dereliction of duty. Placerville refused to send Delegates to this Convention, at least none have come from the people. They are said to have
Mr. Emory Waters said, "are there not Delegates from El Dorado County?"

Mr. Francis thought that we were pre-judging the case; no specific charge has been made until this is done, we cannot decide upon the facts; we want information.

Mr. C. M. Wilson said, "I hope the gentleman who made the motion under discussion will withdraw it until the facts are ascertained; let us not be in too great haste; if the people of Placerville have acted wrongly, let us know the facts.

Mr. N. Henry said, "the gentleman from Placerville is a stranger to me, and I can have no prejudice against him; I would go for letting him come in at once, but it is said there is wrong, there is truth in what people of Placerville, at present, there are no definite charges. If it had been said that this gentleman was implicated in the wrong, I should be against his admission; but if he had not a participation therein, then let us receive him.

Mr. E. H. Collins proposed to amend by appointing five on that committee; the motion was lost.

Mr. H. M. Collins, asked, "is Mr. Booth a Delegate from El Dorado County?"

Mr. Booth said, "I am not sent as a Delegate from Placerville, though I am resident of that place. I am here as a member of the Executive Committee, appointed by the Convention of last year. The people there did, at first, oppose to send Mr. Lawrence to this Convention, with three other gentlemen, but afterwards decided to send no Delegate. As Mr. Lawrence is here, I should have wished the Convention to receive him that we might get his statement of facts."

Mr. Moore said, "we can avoid getting into trouble ourselves; let us go right; the question is, has the gentleman got credentials? is he delegated by the people of Placerville? Delegate means one sent and empowered to act for others. Is he sent to this Convention? This will be the best way of coming to a decision upon the question of admitting or not.

Mr. Ferguson, though adverse under ordinary circumstances to shutting off discussion, "because I am in favor of the largest liberty, liberty of speech. Yet, it is plain we may not otherwise be able to determine as to the propriety or impropriety of receiving the gentleman from Placerville, and for the purpose of facilitating business, I will move that the previous question be now put."

The motion being seconded, was sustained.

The President then put the motion of Mr. Booth, that J. F. Lawrence, of Placerville, be invited to take a seat as a Delegate, and it was carried.

Mr. Peter Anderson stated that he intended, during the Session of the Convention, to bring in a series of resolutions in favor of a State Press.

Mr. M. S. Haynes moved that a committee of three be appointed to investigate the charges presented against Placerville, and report upon the same to the Convention.

E. H. Collins proposed to amend by appointing five on that committee; amendment accepted. The chair appointed Messrs. H. M. Collins, E. A. Booth, Richard Hall, Charles R. Wilson, William H. Thomas.

Mr. S. Howard asked permission to read a series of resolutions—granted.

The resolutions having been read, were, by vote, laid on the table.

The Business Committee, by its chairman, J. H. Townsend, reported the following preamble and series of resolutions:

Whereas, The state and condition of the colored citizens of California is one of political as well as social debasement, and calls loudly upon them to assert themselves in behalf of reform, and to unite their energies to repeal and overthrow the cruel and unjust laws of this State which are imposed upon them, and

Whereas, We are satisfied that our condition, according to the opportunities enjoyed, will bear a favorable comparison with that of any other class of men in this State; and being fully determined to use every proper exertion to obtain those great and inestimable rights for which our fathers fought for and those which might secure them as an inheritance to us, their children. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That we will use every means in our power to exhibit a true state of our condition, repudiating the base slanderers and falsehoods that have been fabricated against us.

Report of Business Committee

Resolved, That we will continually remind our white fellow-citizens that they are supported by us in all wrongs and grievances which cause our forefathers to rebel against Great Britain, and to appeal to their arms, and the God of battles.

Resolved, That the laws of the State of California disfranchising its colored citizens, on the ground of color, are a foul blot upon the Statutes of the State, having no precedent in the annals of the world, unworthy of a disgust to, and the enlightened and progressive spirit of the American People.

Resolved, That we claim our rights in this country, as any other class, as citizens by adoption, but by right of birth; that we hail with delight its onward progress; sympathize with it in its adversity; and would freely

Among themselves, refusing Placerville, it seems to me, will be reflecting upon the county, and equivalent to placing all our people there under ban."

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cast our lot in the fortunes of battle, to protect her against foreign inva-
sion.

Resolved, That the laws of evidence in judicial investigation, should be
accommodated to, and identified with, the laws of the human mind, and, for
therefore, every force and circumstance having a tendency to throw light upon
such subject under investigation, should be heard and judged of according to the
relative weight and value, and with reference to all the circumstances of
credit or discredit connected with them.

Resolved, That such experience has abundantly shown, that all attempts
to establish artificial standards of credibility, depending upon such tests as
race, color, creed, or country, are as unwise as they are useless; and, that
such tests are only on the side to obstruct the investigation of truth, by
the erection of artificial barriers; and, on the other, to deny, to the excluded
classes, while, at the same time, they subject them to their own, in their
persons, and in their property, to outrage and injustice, with impunity.

Resolved, That the true and only tests of credibility in a witness, is
his intelligence, integrity, and disinterestedness; and that, as a race, we
are willing to be subject to these tests, to be applied in each case as it
occurs, and that we ought not to be subject to any other.

Resolved, That to a class of people, the right of testimony is as valu-
able as the right of self-defense—a right which no generous foe will deny,
even to an enemy.

Resolved, That we recommend the creation of a contingent fund, to be
controlled by a committee, having discretionary power, to enable them to carry
forward any measures that have for their object the amelioration of our con-
dition.

Resolved, That a State Executive Committee be appointed by the Conven-
tion, with full powers to adopt such measures as may be deemed expedient
to accomplish the objects in view.

Resolved, That the common law, and the common school, are the only hope
diers of a free and enlightened people; the former shorn, and the latter,
their guide; and no people can be prosperous and happy who have been
deprived of these inestimable rights of God to man.

Resolved, That the character, integrity, industry, and intelligence of the
colored citizens of California, will compare favorably with that of any
class of men in this State, and are deserving of better treatment from the
authorities than that to which they are exposed, by the legalizing of the
principle (as applied to them) that "might makes right."

Resolved, That we will memorialize the Legislature at its approa-
session, for the repeal of so much of the 3d and 4th paragraphs of Section
394, of an Act passed April 29th, 1855, entitled "An Act to regulate pro-
ceedings in civil cases in the Courts of Justice in this State," as
related to negroes; also, to repeal so much of Section 14, of an Act entitled "An
Act concerning crimes and punishments," passed April 16th, 1850, so
related to negroes and mulattoes, and which disqualified negroes and mulattoes
from being competent witnesses in the Courts of Justice in this State, in cases
or proceedings to which white persons are parties.

The Report of the Business Committee was accepted on motion of Mr.
Anderson.

Mr. Henry moved to adopt the Report in sections.

Mr. Ferguson suggested that the preamble should be in order: adopted
after the reading thereof.

Resolutions No. 1 being read again, and upon the motion of Mr. Newby
adopted, No. 2 was read, and on motion of Mr. Barbaadoes, adopted.

Resolutions No. 3 read, and Mr. Robinson moved its adoption—carried.

Resolutions No. 4 was read, pending a motion to adopt it Mr. Newby said:
"I am opposed to the Language of this resolution, 'that we wall with
delight its onward progress;' no man can be expected—certainly
whose prosperity and wealth has been built upon our sweat and blood; to say
we hail its progress with delight, is to make ourselves ridiculous; to tell
this to America—to the world—is to volunteer the acknowledgement of a

sacrifice, that would make us underserving the sympathy and respect of just
men.

We freely cast in our lots in the fortunes of battle, to protect
against foreign invasion; this may be patriotism—but patriotism may be a
virtue in a white man—a freeman, it may be worthy indulged; as an American,
the events of his country's history, and the circumstances of her present con-
dition, may cause him, or call upon his principles, to battle with his
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in that open protest, at home and abroad, even against the laws and policy of your
	country." Mr. Moore said:--"If it is to build up slavery, that is quite another thing.
	I do not think this is the intended meaning of the language; neither do I think the
	friends need to fear that the country will make any progress in that direction. It is true the
	south continues to threaten, that it will not be allowed to bully the people, and drive them
	back upon the other two depressions of the South, thus extending the area of slavery, and consolidating
	heir power, so that they may suppress free thought, free speech, and a free press.

Mr. Newby said:--"I appeal to the good sense of this Convention, if the introduction of

tabernacle worship in a convention which is to meet in another place, is to be allowed

to pass without the protest of those present. The members from New York, I believe,
	an hour or two ago made a protest. Is it not right that such a point should be
	made known to the public? It may be at home, and not at the Legislature, that
	the people will be made acquainted with this事实 that will be most effectual in
	preventing the introduction of the tabernacle worship in the Constitution of this
	State? If it is to be allowed, I shall feel myself bound to resign my seat in the
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Mr. Newby said:--"The people of Tennessee desire to have a special credit from us; it is not

sympathy with our condition; but wheneversoever comes this misfortune in them, I am glad to see it. They
are fighting for home and liberty.

Mr. Newby said:--"Mr. Barbadoes dislikes the language used in reference to the
resolution; he calls it rash, incendiary, and yet he is opposed to the resolution; yes, to that part which
refers to foreign invasion. I think that the resolution may be withdrawn, and that harmony may be restored.

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Constitution.

Mr. Newby said—"I hope this resolution will be re-committed, and the committee instructed to erase the word 'Mulatto,' from it. Such a word ought not to be used in application to any class of men; it is of Spanish origin, false in its signification, referring, as it does, to the nape. If it simply
came from a group mixture, the word will apply with equal propriety to the mixture
among the divisions of the race, without a drop of African blood in their
veins.

Mr. Townsend said—"I do not perceive, in the remarks of my friend, Mr.
Newby, any good practical reason for discarding the word 'Mulatto'; it is
commonly used to designate a class; the public are familiar with it, and so
are we; as generally supposed. Besides it is the term
used in the Statute; to have it erased from the Statute, is, indeed, the ob-
ject for which we are laboring. I trust this resolution will be adopted as
it is."
Resolved, That this Convention adjourn sine die, to-morrow, (Thursday) afternoon, at 2 o'clock—not seconded.

Mr. H. M. Wilson, chair of the Committee appointed to examine into and report upon the facts in the case of Placerville, in accordance with a resolution passed at the Morning Session, presented the following Report:

In respect to the charges brought against Placerville, your Committee beg to say that it is ascertained that the sum of $146 was raised by the ladies of Placerville, with the understanding it was to be sent to the State Executive Committee, to be used by them in carrying out the purposes of the Convention last year. This money was deposited for security in the hands of Armstead Pollock, of El Dorado county.

During the present month, when the people of Placerville met in public meeting to appoint Delegates to attend this Convention, a proposition was made to send four Delegates. Another proposal was made to take funds from the amount collected last year to pay the expenses of those Delegates. A majority of the citizens decided against this last proposal, and finally decided to send none.

The party in favor of using the $146 being thwarted and disappointed, hastily called a meeting on Saturday, Dec. 6th, at the usual hour of 3 o'clock, A.M., got possession of the money, and voted to divide the same among the twelve ladies who had collected it, which was done accordingly.

Among those who voted for the division were William Calm, George Anderson, James Butler, F. Lawrence, J. Smith, C. Smith, J. Moss, P. Williams, Bay, Abernethy, etc.

Messrs. Quinn, Butler, Anderson, and Lawrence, were nominated as Delegates.

Such are substantially the facts in the case of Placerville, as interrogated by your Committee: H. M. Collins, E. A. Booth, Richard Hall, C. H. Wilson, William H. Thomas.

The report was accepted, and ordered to be placed on record.

The Committee on Education was called upon to report.

Mr. Henry, chairman of that Committee, stated they were not yet ready to report; he requested that Delegates would give in their statistics, and asked for further time.

Mr. Phelps, of the Finance Committee, presented a resolution from that Committee:—

Resolved, That each Delegate be assessed in the sum of $250, to defray the expenses of the Convention.

Mr. Hayne opposed to amend by substituting $4 each.

Messrs. Francis and Thomas supported the amendment, and Messrs. Hayne, Moore, and Wilborn opposed it.

Mr. Henry moved to refer the whole question of the assessment of members, back into the hands of the Committee of Finance—carried.

E. M. Wilson, of the Business Committee, introduced resolution No. 16.

Resolved, That one Delegate from each county be appointed to collect funds in his respective county; said funds to be placed at the disposal of the State Executive Committee, and that each person so appointed by this Convention, be authorized to appoint others in the different precincts to collect funds therein for the same purpose.

Mr. Townsend proposed to amend resolution 16, and appoint two in each county—rejected.

Mr. Phelps wished to amend still further; he thought it was not in the spirit of the Convention, and that each Delegate be furnished with five copies.

Resolved, The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. T. Ditter, in behalf of Mr. N. Lyer, offered resolution No. 17, Resolved, That the Convention appoint one person in each county to distribute the charges brought against Placerville, and direct the circulation of the same for names, to be presented to the Legislature during the approaching Session. Voted to refer to the Business Committee.

Mr. F. G. Barbadoes, in behalf of F. Hatfield, the 18th resolution was seconded and carried.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Resolved, That we recommend the printing of 1,000 copies of the proceedings of this Convention, and that each Delegate be furnished with five copies. Referred to the Business Committee.

Mr. W. Booth moved that a committee of three be appointed on publication.

J. M. Flowers suggested the propriety of appointing five instead. Voted to lay the matter on the table.

Mr. Henry offered a motion to apportion a committee of seven, to present a report on statistics—motion adopted.

The Chair appointed the following gentlemen:—P. Anderson, E. A. Booth, John Buckner, James Hubbard, David Lewis, Frank Hatfield, Minor J. Brown, chairman of the Committee, in making up the statistics of the colored people, would accept no vague or uncertain statements; certainly none will be published.

Mr. Anderson remarked that verbal statements were received last year, and that when they are reliable, there can be no objection to receiving them.

Mr. Henry said,—"In Tuolumne county we have been particular in collecting our statistics. Delegates and the public may rely on their correctness when published."

Mr. G. W. Booth read a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That this Convention adjourn sine die, at 3 o'clock, tomorrow afternoon, and that we hold but one session to-morrow. It was tabled.

The chairman of the Business Committee again reported resolution No. 17, of Mr. N. Lyer, amended with the proposition to appoint four in each county—voted to adopt.

The meetings of Committees were announced, and with benediction, the Convention adjourned to Thursday morning.

J. B. Sanderson, F. J. Vosburgh, S. Howard, Secy.

THIRD DAY'S PROCEEDINGS

Morning Session,—Dec. 11th, 1856.

At 10 o'clock President Hall called the Convention to order.

The XIXth Psalm was read, and prayer offered by the Chaplain.

The Rules of the Convention being called for by R. H. Hall; they were read by the Secretary.

The Chairman of the Business Committee reported a series of resolutions, as follows:

Resolved, That the recommendation of the immediate printing of petition heads, be referred to the members of the Convention.

Resolved, The Constitution of this State denies us the right of suffrage, the only safeguard of a free people, and Whereas. We believe such a course is not only unjust, proscriptive and trusted, but inconsistent with the spirit of our Constitution, based, as it is, upon the doctrine that all men are created free and equal; therefore Resolved, That we will use all lawful means in our power to secure the enjoyment of the provision which deprives us of this right.

Resolved, That as a means of elevating ourselves, we recommend to the colored people of California, the engaging in agricultural pursuits; also, the cultivation of a knowledge of the arts and sciences, believing it would tend to dispel prejudice and proscription, by establishing the fact of our ability to compete with our oppressors in those branches requiring practical skill, ingenuity, and high intelligence.

Resolved, That we deprecate the excessive use of intoxicating liquors, and the practice of gambling, and recommend the adoption of some means-calculating...
lsted to suppress those vices, believing they tend to degrade and improper
those who indulge in them.
On motion of Mr. Gordon, the report was accepted.
Voted upon the motion of Mr. Geo. W. Booth, to adopt, seriatim.
First section, No. 19, adopted, on motion of G. W. Booth.
Second section, the Preamble and Resolution No. 20, adopted on motion
of W. H. Thomas.
Third section, 20th resolution, adopted on motion of F. R. Carter.
Fourth section, resolution No. 21, on motion of J. M. Flowers, was
adopted.
Fifth section, adopted on motion of W. H. Hall, of El Dorado.
Of Preamble and Resolution No. 20, N. Henry is author; of 21 and 22,
J. M. Flowers.

The report having been adopted, J. J. Moore expressed himself as much
gratified at the progress the Convention had made in the adoption of so many
excellent resolutions; the only thing he regretted was, that resolution No.
22 had been lost. It had not made time for any consideration of its merits
and gambling among the colored people; he felt deeply, and hence expressed
himself in emphatic language when speaking of those evils. He hoped the
time would soon come when they would be eradicated from amongst us.
F. G. Barbadoes, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported progress.
Finance Committee instanced on motion of H. M. Collins to adopt such measures
as will raise funds for the expenses of the Convention as they deem for best.
The report of a Committee on a State Press being called for, W. H.
Newby, chairman of that committee, stated that they were not ready to report.
Committee to report upon the subject of Education called for; Mr. Henry,
its chairman, said the committee had not completed its report.
Mr. Townsend thought as the committee were not ready with their report.
it would be a waste of time simply to introduce a resolution at this stage.
The President decided that it was Mr. Henry's right to read the resolu-
tion, being germane to the subject given to the committee to report upon to
the Convention.
Mr. Newby--"Is the resolution a part of the report of the Committee on
Education?"
Mr. Henry--"Yes; I have put the resolution in the hands of the Business
Committee. I hope it has not been lost; the people may deem me ultra, but
the resolution embodied the views of my constituents, and if not carried out, I
desire to have them briefly and, in that way, presented before this Conven-
tion, for no other purpose than to send an express to give opinions therein.
Mr. C. M. Wilson presented the resolution of Mr. Henry, which contained
a suggestion touching the propriety of securing, at an early day, the pur-
chase of a portion of the public lands for the erection of a College a
school, and Manual Labor Schools thereon, for the benefit of the colored people.
Mr. Geo. Miller moved the adoption of the resolution.
Mr. Henry said--"Before the resolution is disposed of, I desire to say a
few words pertaining to the Committee on Education; the report of the com-
mittee have not reported is, they have been unable to command the necessary
statistics; we early proposed a resolution that delegates from the country
collect and bring in the required information; let the public see the facts
the numbers, the business, the taxes, and the general claims of our people
let the facts go out to the confines of the State; it would remove prejudice
from the minds of the whites, and encourage the colored people. In this
early point of the history of our State, we should commence efforts to secure
to our children the advantages of education. It is a source of pride and en-
couragement to me, that we have now amongst us men of education, who have
enjoyed the benefits and honors of Oberlin. Why should we not have an
Oberlin here, in this State? There is now no school of that class; is it
reasonable we should have none?"
Sir, I may be thought extravagant and ultra, but I have labored for
this, and hope to see the day when I shall be permitted to assist in laying
the first stone in the foundation of such an institution; what so important
in and necessary to our elevation, as education? We have seen and felt a
thousand times this fact, this sentiment; here are men of education, who have
settled in California permanently; they are taxed."
Mr. Hall, of El Dorado, moved that the State Executive Committee be
called upon to make their report.—Carried.

Mr. Townsend, Chairman of the State Executive Committee presented a
verbal report.

Mr. Newby asked if the foregoing was to be regarded as the official re-
port of the Committee?—"It is not so, then the Committee have been greatly remiss in their duty.

"It devolves upon this Convention to appoint a new Executive Committee;
that new Committee when appointed, should have papers from the hands of the old, as a chart by which, to some extent, they are to be
regulated in future efforts, in proper condition. It is due the Committee
that it should have a more formal report."—Mr. Townsend.

Mr. Barbadoes moved that a dispatch be immediately sent for the books of the Executive Committee.

Mr. Anderson thought the report was satisfactory; as a member of the Executive Committee he would defend it. If the motion to send a dispatch for
the books was intended as a reflection upon that report, he was opposed to
the motion. Mr. Hall, of El Dorado:—"It will be impossible for us to proceed to the appointment of a new Committee unless we have a detailed report of the action
of the old."

Mr. H. Thomas did not see why the Executive Committee should hesitate
about having the books examined. The report of Mr. Townsend is well enough as far as goes, but it is not practicable enough. Mr. Newby:—"Perhaps in the motives of those who are in favor of sending for the books; it is not that we are dissatisfied with
the management of the Committee—they have done well. We had looked forward to the report, before this Convention, as one of the most important. That which was presented verbally was good, but let us now see the records.

Mr. Harper moved to lay this subject on the table.—Carried.

The vote was taken upon the motion of Mr. Barbadoes to send a dis-
patch for the Books of the Executive Committee, and the motion was carried.

The following letter having been received by one of the Secretaries, from Mrs. Jane R. Fortie, of Placerville, was ordered read:

Placerville, Dec. 9th, 1856.

Mr. Sanders:—I have felt it to be my duty to forward to the State Executive Committee, through you, the proportion of the $146 belonging to the Committee, which was paid to me
by Mr. Quinn. In sending it I hope I have done my duty. I am not able to say anything about the rest of the money, which was presented verbally was good, but let us now see the records.

Mr. Harper moved to lay this subject on the table.—Carried.

The vote was taken upon the motion of Mr. Barbadoes to send a dis-
patch for the Books of the Executive Committee, and the motion was carried.

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The vote was taken upon the motion of Mr. Barbadoes to send a dis-
patch for the Books of the Executive Committee, and the motion was carried.
The chair subsequently announced the following as a Committee on Publication: J. B. Sanderson, J. J. Moore, J. B. Townsend, C. W. Gordon, W. H. Newby.

It was moved by Mr. E. A. Booth, that a committee of three be appointed to prepare an address to the colored people of this State, upon the subjects of Agriculture and Mining, and the benefits to be derived from the same. This motion was amended, at the suggestion of Mr. Francis, who proposed the appointment of a committee of five, and was adopted.

The Chair appointed the following gentlemen: Messrs. J. Francis, E. A. Booth, S. B. Hyer, E. D. Vincent, and J. Hubbard.

Mr. Henry presented a motion, that a committee of five be appointed to prepare an address to the white people of California.

Mr. Francis proposed to amend by striking out the word "white." Mr. Phelps was opposed to the amendment, he said: "Why have we not in this Convention? To adopt measures to secure a redress of our grievances? It is to the whites who have passed the laws which concern us. Why then should we not address ourselves to them? As we desire they especially should know our opinions and our wishes. Let this word be retained." Mr. Better: "A resolution has already been adopted, in which another language is used in reference to appealing to the whites; and yet it is proposed to strike the word out of Mr. Henry's resolution, to be consistent the Convention should reconsider, and throw out a former resolution." Mr. Anderson favored the amendment of Mr. Francis. He was generally opposed to the use of such words when speaking to the people. "Let us," said he, "claim to be men, neither more nor less, and when asking that justice be done us, as we contemplate asking at the hands of the people of California, let not the word white be retained in the convention." Mr. E. Waters: "It is essential to a good understanding of the matter that we address to the public generally, we should retain this word; we want to appeal to the whites specially, to let them know we mean something definite. They have got the power; we know it--they know it; therefore let us appeal to them, to use that power beneficently towards us; we must appeal to their superiors. The President announced that the hour of adjournment had arrived, and benediction having been pronounced, the Convention adjourned until afternoon.

Third Day

Afternoon Session.

Met at 4 o'clock, President Hall in the Chair; prayer was offered by the Rev. Mr. Waters.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The subject of Mr. Henry's motion to appoint a Committee to prepare an address to the white people of California, was taken up, with Mr. Francis' proposed amendment to strike out the word "white." Mr. Henry thought it proper to designate the persons addressed.

Mr. Townsend proposed as an amendment to Mr. Francis' amendment, the following resolution: Resolved, That the State Executive Committee, be authorized to prepare an address to the citizens at large of this State--setting forth the true character and position of the colored people of California. Mr. Ferguson thought the resolution of Mr. Townsend could not be accepted, in order, as an amendment; but as a substitute, it could: he read from Jefferson's Manual, to illustrate. Mr. Henry did not agree with Mr. Francis: he thought the language of Mr. Jefferson, upon the point speculative, indefinite and unsatisfactory. Mr. Moore thought it better to retain the word white.

Mr. Townsend opposed its retention; we have met as a convention of colored men, and there will be, no doubt, in the public mind, as to whom we address. He hoped no more time would be consumed in discussing a word. The vote was taken on the motion to adopt Mr. Francis' amendment, and was lost.

Mr. Phelps moved the reference of the subject proposed in Mr. Henry's motion, to the State Executive Committee, with instructions to prepare an address to the white citizens. Mr. Phelps' motion was adopted by the following vote: yeas, 27; nays, 34.

The Committee appointed on the subject of a State Press, presented the following, prepared by Mr. Ferguson:

Report of the Committee on a State Press

As consolidation of interest and oneness of purpose are the surest guarantees of success, the Committee, to whom was referred the duty of reporting the best mode of conducting a State Press, beg leave to report the following:

First, The Mirror of the Times be adopted as the State Organ of the colored people of California.

Second, The colored people of California agree that its size be reduced one-fourth.

Third, That it be under the immediate control of the State Executive Committee, and be supported by the General Fund.

Fourth, That the Executive Committee have plenipotentiary powers to levy such contributions on the people of the different counties in proportion to the population of the respective counties, as may be necessary for the successful publication of the paper.

Fifth, That the financial affairs of the paper, both in receiving and disbursing, be wholly under the control of said Committee, or such persons as may be selected for that purpose; said Committee at all times responsible to the source whence they derive their authority for the prompt and faithful performance of the functions of their office.

Sixth, The place of publication shall be San Francisco, the period of publication, weekly.

Seventh, There shall be one general editor, and one associate, located in the place of publication, whose salaries shall be respectively seventy-five dollars per month.

Eighth, That the Committee shall have power to appoint corresponding editors in different sections of the State, as their discretion may suggest, whose salaries shall be accredited as "labors of love.

Ninth, The financial condition of the paper shall be published in the Mirror, quarterly; and all monies received either from subscribers or pecuniary contributions, be credited weekly in the same.

The Committee find the cost of publishing the Mirror of the Times, in its present size, (exclusive of the pay of editors) to be $200.00 per month.

Allowing one hundred dollars each to the Editors... $200.00

Rent of offices, fuel, lights, stationery, &c., per month... 25.00

Total, per month... $425.00

Reducing the size of paper one-fourth... 60.00

Making the cost of paper so reduced... $365.00

Account Debit per Copy, estimating the reliable circulation of the paper at 500 copies per month, at 40 cents per month will yield... $200.00

Profits from advertisements, local notices, &c... 75.00

Account credit... $775.00

The above estimate leaves a deficit per month of... 90.00

Or per annum... 1,080.00

All of which is respectfully submitted, Accepted.

Mr. Henry moved to adopt the report by sections, carried.

The first section being again read, pending a motion to adopt, Mr. Anderson said: "This Convention ought to assume the ownership and responsibility of sustaining the Mirror, as the first step, and then take the entire control of its financial affairs, and see to it, that this department is properly conducted."
Mr. Ferguson:—"In making this report, we seek the public good. Mr. Anderson is right in proposing caution: look well into the plan before you adopt it. We are bound to the conductors of this enterprise, their necessities, and their management have been above reproach; let us place a proper estimate upon them. We often fail in our efforts, from distrust of our leaders; let us prove ourselves honest, at heart, until they prove otherwise. A continual fear and suspicion is our bane; either let us sustain and uphold the people of those, who, possessing ability, a generous love for, and devotion to the right, have undertaken for us, it is good, or cease our complaints against the popular wrongs of which we are victims; cease to insist in Convention to devise plans for their removal, or elsewhere to parade our professions of anxiety to become a free and respected people."

Mr. Anderson:—"It was not my intention to impugn the motives or character of any one. I have all confidence in those gentlemen who have published the Mirror; what I went, is, that this Convention of the people, will desire to adopt the paper as their own. As for going for the publishing committee neither father or mother; it is an orphan; let this Convention adopt and become its foster parents, and provide for its permanent maintenance." Mr. Anderson proposed an amendment, i.e., that this Convention assume the proprietorship of the Mirror of the Times, and at once adopt measures to raise the means to carry that resolution into effect.

Mr. Collins:—"It was the expectation of the Publishing Committee when they commenced the paper, that it would, at length, come into the possession of the people."

Mr. E. A. Booth agreed with Mr. Anderson's resolution, and thought it the better way for us to become possessors of the paper, and then to go to work and accomplish the details.

Mr. E. Waters:—"The information just communicated, is new to me; I did not know the interest of the paper meant it should become the property of the people through this Convention. What are we to pay? what new taxes are to be imposed upon our people? if my constituents agree with you, they will go to the black-rock to sustain you." Mr. Wilson called for the question on the amendment as proposed by Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Anderson:—"I understood the amendment was substantially the same thing as the 1st Section proposed by Mr. Ferguson: it is perhaps a little more definite. Now, as to the facts in regard to the Mirror, it has never yet been made to pay expenses. Established in some haste, from the conviction that such a paper was imperatively necessary, up to the present, all the means which have been received, have been paid over to the printers. But the state of things cannot last; from the first, we have expected efficient aid from the people, whose cause it was established to advocate.

"At the Convention last year, a Committee was created to report on the propriety of establishing a press; the Mirror is the effect of the cause, or necessity in this State as intimated in the report of that Committee; necessity which are demanding our attention more forcibly every day."

"The colored people, resident in California, must represent themselves; we wish now to know,—will you assume the Mirror? that we have done as its publishing committee, as its editors, has been done freely; we have desired and still desire to see this enterprise succeed, and are willing to do what we can to promote its success; let the people now decide what they will do with it."

Mr. Harper:—"I think the Mirror is a very important instrument; its existence is original; it should be so advertised that people will not be made to go down by any one else than those of us who, in these circumstances, have paid for the paper."

Mr. D. Moses:—"I rejoice at this manifestation of interest in the paper. I have labored to extend its circulation, believing it was accomplishing a good work. Somewhat acquainted with its financial condition, I can testify this to be true; it has been expensive and sometimes burdensome to a few. The ladies of San Francisco, lately come to the rescue: they have formed a Mirror Association, and are now in keeping it alive; and for their efforts, they deserve great credit."
Trustees, to be appointed by this Convention." He said—to-narrow I shall
in favor of appointing a committee to raise funds for the Mirror.

Mr. Moore said:—"Gentlemen may rest assured, that if this paper is
continued by the Executive Committee, they will use it to promote solely the
success of the general cause."

Messrs. Moses and Better were in favor of the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Ferguson said:—"Mr. President, I do not wish to impede the progress
of this discussion, nor precipitate the vote upon this question with indecent haste;
but we have already spent much time upon the third section, and it is
to be presumed that the point as to how and whence this organ is to get sup­
port, is generally understood and decided upon; not because it is important, but
because it is important, and I think it

Mr. Ferguson's motion was sustained. The previous question was put,
and the amendment of Mr. Ferguson's motion was sustained. The previous question
was sustained.

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because it is important, and I think we are all satisfied to favor it, but because it is important, and I think we are all satisfied to favor it.

Mr. Ferguson's motion was sustained. The previous question
was sustained.

Mr. Ferguson thought the State Press question was absorbing too much of
the time of the Convention; the State Press Committee seemed to have combined,
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Mr. Ferguson's motion was sustained. The previous question
was sustained.
The Committee on Statistics was called upon to report; the report presented in a fragmentary and unsatisfactory form.

Mr. Booth moved to refer back to the Committee on Statistics.

Mr. Moore thought nothing could be more injurious than to pretend that the Committee have sought information, but delegates have not been prepared with statistics; to collect them hereafter, and place them in the hands of this Committee to be combined into a report can hardly be expected.

Mr. Wilson was for referring, because he did not want the report published in its present form.

Mr. Brown asked permission to amend his own motion, by adding the words "with instructions, etc." Upon the motion of Mr. Barbadoes, the subject matter of the report was laid upon the table.

Constitutional. The motion of Mr. Townsend, that the Convention go into Secret Session at 4 o'clock, to hear and act upon the Official Report of the State Executive Committee—rejected.

E. R. Phelps moved that the Convention go into Secret Session this afternoon between the hours of 4 and 5 o'clock, to hear and act upon the Official Report of the State Executive Committee—seconded. Messrs. Anderson, Detter, Newby, and Newby were appointed to the Secret Session.

Ferguson and Herbert favored it. Mr. Ferguson said: "I am in favor of the Secret Session, not because I fear any revelations will be made, or action taken, of which we need to be ashamed, but as a matter of policy.

Mr. Newby—"Secret Sessions I oppose, as a matter of principle; I hold them to be anti-democratic in their spirit and tendency; they are often resorted to when objects of men, possessing power and means, could concoct schemes against the interests and liberties of the people; the people always detect them, fearing that some rascality is to be done."

Mr. Moore—"My convictions are nevertheless against the propriety of the Committee of whose action the records speak; there are others to. Secret Sessions are often necessary in democratic and monarchal governments, when at war with other nations, that government should not know their purposes. During the last war, this government held the enemy at bay through several measures, and concealed them from the public, only communicating them to those who were to carry them into execution. What's your Executive Committee for? For what do you give them power and control of your funds? For what do you trust them to act in behalf of our injured and much abused people; and we will do all in our power to make it worthy of the people it represents.

Mr. Newby—"I do not know what questions will enter into the discussion, but I do not fear any revelations will be made."

Mr. Wilson proposed a motion, that the Convention go into Secret Session, not because I fear any revelations will be made, but because I fear the public must be content to confide in their wisdom and faithfulness, without knowing the details of their action.

Mr. Moore—"My convictions are nevertheless against the propriety of the Secret Session. What do we propose to do in it? As I understand, simply to examine the accounts. The people desire to hear the facts, and besides, it will increase their confidence in the Committee. I am, therefore, for an open session, and for letting the people come in."

U. H. Newby—"I do not know what questions will enter into the deliberations of the Secret Session. Mr. Ferguson says it is policy that dictates this proposal. I fear it is more a matter of pride than necessity. I am still of the opinion that an open session should be held, and the facts of the action of the Executive Committee communicated to the people; it will stir them to greater earnestness in sustaining the Committee. If the Committee have been delirous, let it be seen; or, if the colored people of California have not done their duty—have not come up to their pledges; let it be known."

The vote was taken upon the motion for a Secret Session, and it was carried.

N. Banks, in behalf of Mr. Robinson, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That a portion of the Proceedings of this Convention be published in one of the daily papers. This resolution, after being amended by a proposal of Mr. Ferguson with the words "provided the paper selected publish such proceedings gratefully,"—adopted.

T. Detter offered a resolution that a committee of five be appointed to examine and decide upon the fitness and propriety of publishing articles sent to the "Mirror of the Times" for that purpose.

J. H. Townsend thought that editors should decide upon the fitness of articles sent for publication.

E. A. Booth was of the opinion that the editors should not have power to suppress at discretion.

J. J. Moore thought that some power should be established, to which appeal could be made when wrong is done to a correspondent, in the matter of his expression of his communication; an editor may be in the wrong, and he should be held responsible, and the Committee to be combined to make a report.

J. H. Townsend—"I am surprised that Mr. Moore should express such views. It was proposed to hedge in an editor to an extent that no man, with ability and responsibility necessary to the efficient conducting of a paper, would willingly be confined. The power to decide upon articles is commonly exercised by editors. Take the San Francisco 'Evening Bulletin,' and the course of Mr. Wilson, and others, in the management of the "Mirror of the Times," for example: while he lived, one of the most independent of men in the State; his press one of the most liberal freely for communications upon all subjects of interests to the people.

J. M. Flowers moved to lay Mr. Detter's resolution on the table—motion carried.

Mr. Richard Hall moved that so much of 3d Rule as relates to the hour of adjourning the Afternoon Session be suspended, and that the Afternoon Session of this day be extended to such a time as delegates shall deem it proper to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Newby, and adopted unanimously.

F. G. Barbadoes asked permission to read a series of resolutions, which had been drawn up and placed in his hands by Mr. Thomas Duff, of Mariposa—granted.

Mr. Duff—"Resolved, That the Delegates be instructed by this Convention, to call meetings of the colored people of their respective counties, to consider upon the best ways of raising funds for the support of the Mirror of the Times. This newspaper is one of the best of the times in behalf of our injured and much abused people; and we will do all in our power to make it worthy of the people it represents.

Mr. Newby—"I do not give it of the power and authority of the same in which the Mirror has been conducted by its original proprietors: that they have proved themselves capable of making it an honor to the colored people of the State of California.

We resolved, that we recommend as an effective way to raise funds for the paper, that each delegate call meetings in their respective counties, and form clubs to make donations of such sums as may be agreed upon by those composing the clubs.

Resolved, That the sums donated by the clubs to the Mirror, be forwarded to the Executive Committee monthly, at such times as their members shall decide upon.

Resolved, That we recommend that we look upon the Mirror of the Times as a beacon light, shining brightly and clearly on the path by which we are to reach that position, that as a free and intelligent people, we should occupy in common with our white fellow-citizens; showing beyond a doubt, that we possess talent, industry and enterprise in our ranks; and that all we want is, the equal enjoyment of those civil and political rights, and privileges that are possessed by the whites, and we will stand second to no class of people in the American Union.

The series of resolutions of Mr. Duff, were, on the motion of Mr. Ferguson, laid on the table.

Mr. George W. Booth asked if the Business Committee was ready to report on the resolution of Mr. Hatfield, touching the distribution of the proceedings of the Convention, which was, at the Wednesday afternoon session, referred to the Business Committee—Committee not ready.

Mr. Booth proposed a motion, that the pamphlets of proceedings, when published, be distributed among the delegates—each one to be entitled to an equal share.

Mr. Newby seconded the motion; and the vote being taken thereon, it was carried.

Adjourned to 4 o'clock, P.M.
Mr. Henry remarked:—"In regard to the report to which we have just listened, it has afforded me great satisfaction; it met his approval from beginning to end; there is a clearness and straightforwardness in it that I like. The gentlemen composing the Executive Committee, have acted in a manner worthy of the position of the State; they have made no effort to obscure; they have acted with great ability, and I trust the resolution will pass."

Mr. Newby moved to adopt the report of the State Executive Committee—carried unanimously.

Mr. Ferguson read the following resolution, and moved its adoption:

Resolved, That the colored people of the State of California, through their representatives here assembled, tender their heartfelt thanks to the members of the State Executive Committee, for the prompt and faithful manner in which they have discharged the arduous duties imposed upon them by virtue of their office—it was adopted by acclamation.

Mr. Henry moved the reconsideration of the vote of yesterday, by which a motion relating to the disposal of the pamphlets—was laid on the table.

Mr. Francis seconded the motion, and it was carried.

Mr. Francis proposed a motion that the proceedings, when published, be equally distributed among the members of this Convention.

Mr. Moore, Mr. Townsend and Mr. Moore, opposed the motion. Mr. Henry thought they should be a source of revenue for the purposes of the Convention. He would suggest an amendment, so as to give 8 copies to each delegate.

Mr. Moore:—"Some provision should be made to furnish the Executive Committee with extra copies. I move that each delegate shall receive 10 copies of the proceedings, and that the remainder be placed in the hands of the Executive Committee"—this amendment was accepted, and on motion was adopted, providing for the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Vosburgh, and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the State Executive Committee be composed of fifteen persons, two of whom shall reside in San Francisco, Sacramento and Marysville, and the other five chosen from the different sections of the State.

Voted, on the motion of Mr. A. G. Dennison, that a Committee of five be appointed to nominate a list of names to constitute the State Executive Committee.


Mr. F. J. Vosburgh presented resolution No. 29, as follows:

Resolved, That the members of this Convention tender their thanks to E. P. Duplex, Esq., of Marysville, for the prompt and efficient manner in which he has discharged the arduous duties of Secretary of the State Executive Committee for the past year.

The resolution being seconded, Mr. Ferguson, expressed himself as of the opinion, that the resolution pending, had been anticipated by resolution which the Convention had already adopted.

Mr. Newby agreed with Mr. Vosburgh, and thought we should designate in the case of Mr. Duplex.

Mr. Townsend:—"I hope this resolution will be passed by the Convention; Mr. Duplex has done well; it gives me pleasure to testify to the efficiency and value of his services, and I am sure that every member of the Executive Committee will respond to it."

Mr. Ferguson:—"I am the last man to attempt to deplore any one of well earned laurels. The man of magnanimity who does his duty, feels rewarded by the services are acknowledged in a manly way; such a man, I believe is worthy of the respect of the people."

Mr. Duplex:—"In regard to the resolution of Mr. Ferguson, I am sure that every member of the Executive Committee will be expected to work for you, for all of us, and certainly it is not a work of slight importance to us; let not the proposition to leave off two such men as Townsend and Newby from the Committee, be entertained for a moment. I feel deeply as I feel interested in the continuance and success of the Mirror, let either of them get out of the right way, and that love and confidence which the little support I have hitherto been proud to extend to them, shall be witheld."

Mr. Hubbard said—"Of one thing I think it is safe to assure the friends of the Mirror, flowers and new friends, and Newby will not be able to run off with the Executive Committee."

Mr. Ferguson asked permission to read a letter, which had been placed in the hands by Mr. Hyer—granted. The letter having been read, was, by vote of CALIFORNIA, 1856
the Convention, ordered to be recorded among the minutes of the Convention. It was as follows:

The citizens of San Joaquin send greeting to the Convention of colored men being held in Sacramento. The great objects embraced in the call for the Convention meet our united approval; that we shall have, in the struggle to obtain them, our best energies.

The disgraceful enactments that so cripple us in all that pertains to our elevation and happiness should be repealed. Gentlemen, you have our co-operation in this glorious struggle; we hope that measures will be adopted, calculated by their wisdom and efficiency to promote all our interests, but chiefly the repeal of the Statutes invalidating our testimony in Courts of Justice where white gersons are parties. This deprivation subjects us to many outrages and aggressions by wicked and unprincipled white men; by it, prejudice is aroused against us that would not exist but for this Statute; its debasing effects upon the morals of our people is evident, its tendency to crush their aspirations, and thus to prevent the full development of those qualities which are the basis of high moral character. In conclusion, gentlemen, accept our hearty good wishes for the attainment of the great objects we have so much at heart.

In behalf of the people of San Joaquin,

S. B. Hyer.

A resolution respecting the form of Petitions, was presented by Mr. Newby.

Resolved, That the form of the Petitions to be presented to the Legislature shall be the same as those of last year, with the addition of that portion of the late report of the Grand Jury of San Francisco relating to Chinese and African testimony.

Mr. Townsend remarked, that the Executive Committee would be careful in the heading of the Petitions; the experience of last year had been instructive to them in that respect.

Ferguson, Handy, Detter, Henry and Phelps, opposed the adoption of Mr. Newby's resolution.

Mr. Detter moved to lay it on the table—carried, 24 to 20.

Mr. Collins moved that the whole matter of the Petitions be referred to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Phelps supported the motion for reference.

Mr. Newby opposed; he thought the Convention could as well decide, and were likely to know as much as the Executive Committee.

Mr. Townsend thought the reference would save time.

Mr. Ferguson offered an amendment to the motion for reference, as follows: and that they place the words, in conformity with the instructions of the Grand Jury of San Francisco, we petition your honorable body, &c., &c., at the head of the Petitions.

Newby thought the proposed amendment contained a statement that was not true, in the expression, "In conformity with the instructions, &c., &c." Mr. J. B. Johnson was in favor of leaving out of the Petitions all reference to the Report of the Grand Jury.

Mr. Ferguson altered the phraseology of his amendment, so that it read—"In conformity with the late Report of the Grand Jury of San Francisco, we petition your Honorable Body," &c., &c.

In this form the amendment was accepted, and the motion to refer adopted.

Mr. Detter offered a resolution, that J. B. Sanderson prepare the Proceedings of this Convention, and the Petitions, by the 1st of January, and receive for his services the sum of $40.

Mr. Gordon proposed as a substitute, resolution No. 31.

Resolved, That J. B. Sanderson be requested to prepare, at his earliest convenience, the Proceedings of this Convention for publication; and that the sum of $50 be awarded him for his services.

Mr. Gordon's substitute was accepted and passed.
having done our duty to God, to ourselves, and to our fellow men, and though we feel this self-congratulation, let it be remembered that without diligent and constant effort, the great measures we have matured will be futile in their operations. I would urge each one of you to consult and instruct our less favored brothers, both colored and white, remove their prejudices in regard to our true condition, induce our colored brethren to cease prating about being the equals of our oppressors, until they present the mental, pecuniary, and other necessary evidence of being such. Converse with our ignorant white brethren, those who despise the poor negro because he is a negro, and convince them that their social condition and ours are alike degraded, and whatever political measures afflict us, are none the less severe upon them. Reason and argue with those who hold power within their fingers upon the injustice with which we are treated. Convince them of our capabilities in a moral and social point of view. Revert their minds back to the days of childhood when neither knew any difference, neither felt any compunction, but when each heart mingled its grateful emotions in the reciprocity of innocent amusement. Arouse their magnanimity and to their adoration of country, and discover if they are content in the enjoyment of their greatness by compelling us, the equal participants of their troubles, to bear the yoke of servitude. Let us be united in acquiring knowledge and wealth; educate your children for farmers, mechanics, and other industrial pursuits; instill within them the glowing pride of their avocations, and the meanness of degraded conditions, and by the time we again assemble here in Convention, we shall behold results cheering to our ambition, and security to our rights.

Mr. Hall's speech was frequently interrupted with applause.

Mr. J. B. Johnson introduced resolution No. 34, which was adopted. Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be tendered to the Vice Presidents, Secretaries, Chaplain, and other officers of the Convention for the prompt and faithful discharge of their respective duties.

Mr. Smith of Tuolumne said:—As one of the Vice Presidents, he begged to return his thanks to the gentlemen of the Convention; he felt it to be an honor that he had been appointed to that office.

Mr. Thomas made a motion that Mr. J. Howard be now allowed to read a portion of his address. Mr. Newby opposed, on the ground that it was too late. The question was taken on Mr. Thomas' motion, and it was lost. F. G. Barbadoes, Chairman of the Finance Committee reported the amount raised for the expenses of the Convention. Report adopted on the motion of Mr. Ferguson.

A vote of thanks was tendered the Choir of the church, and a collection taken up for the benefit of the Church. The Choir sang an Anthem, and benediction being pronounced, the Convention adjourned, sine die.

OFFICERS OF THE CONVENTION

President
W. H. HALL.  [Sacramento City.]

Vice Presidents
J. B. SANDERSON.
F. G. BARBADOES.
M. S. HAYES,
THOS. DEITTER.
M. C. SMITH.
E. F. DUPLEX.
W. H. HENRY.
G. R. SYMES.

Secretaries
J. B. SANDERSON.
F. J. VOSEBURGH.
S. HOWARD.

Executive Committee,
[San Francisco.]
J. B. TOWNSEND.
J. H. TOWNSEND.
M. C. SMITH.
W. H. HENRY.

[Oroville.]
W. H. HALL.

[Michigan Bluff.]
J. J. UNDERWOOD.

[Columbia.]
H. T. SMITH.

[Mariposa.]
THOS. DUFF.

Publishing Committee
J. B. SANDERSON.
G. W. GORDON.
J. H. TOWNSEND.
W. H. HENRY.

Copy in the Harvard University Library.

REFERENCE NOTES

1. Cincinnatus (Lictor or Titus Quinctius Cincinnatus) was a fifth century B.C. Roman patriot. On two occasions (458 and 439 B.C.), while serving as dictator, he saved Rome from the threat of invading armies.

2. Scipio Africanus Major (2341-183 B.C.) was a Roman general and conqueror of Hannibal in the Punic Wars.