

TO THE Colored Men of the United States.

During a convention of the colored citizens of the District of Columbia, Col. P. H. Carson offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Whereas the political condition of a vast number of negroes in this country is such as to demand attention and careful consideration as to its improvement : Therefore be it

Resolved, That the president of this convention be, and he is hereby requested to appoint a committee of twenty-five, to be composed of citizens of this District, such committee to make arrangement through correspondence with prominent colored men in the country for the holding of a national convention during the month of September, 1883, in this city, and that the chairman of this convention be a member ex-officio of the committee.

In compliance with the above resolution, adopted by the colored people of the District of Columbia in convention assembled, to celebrate the anniversary of their emancipation, this committee of its creation hereby issues the following call, which it believes should be and will be promptly answered by the colored men throughout the United States :

Seriously considering the undeniable and lamentable fact that the present condition of the colored people is insecure, and the future far more alarming, we deem it wise to call their serious attention to these very suggestive points, and ask that they meet in national convention and give them their due consideration and action.

1. We are not given a fair remuneration for our labor in the south, and not protected by law in securing even that trifling pittance for which we do toil.

2. We are not allowed fair and equal educational advantages in the public schools in most parts of the country.

3. Our civil rights are still infringed upon all over the country, notwithstanding the passage of the acts of Congress for our protection in that particular.

4. That our political rights are now almost wholly ignored, and the voice of six and one-half millions of people with peculiar interests at stake lost from the legislative halls of government.

5. That the colored men have given one million and a quarter of votes for the advancement and perpetuation of good and peaceful government ever since they have been enfranchised, and that the executive officers of the Government have not in return given them protection and encouragement half commensurate with their power and fidelity to the Government.

6. That according to the signs of the times the country is on the eve of a great political revolution, and it behooves us as a race to make our interests paramount to those of any party or sect ; that it is our duty to unite and strike out some bold policy and line of action which will bring us nearer to the estate of full citizenship and power when this great revolution is over.

We therefore recommend to the colored people of the several States that they meet in State conventions some time prior to the month of September, 1883, and elect delegates to a national convention to be held in Washington, D. C., 24th day of September, 1883 ; and that the basis of representation be : Colored population—1 delegate to 25,000, giving to each State 3 representatives, provided it has a colored population of not less 10,000, and in no case less than 1 delegate. The representation under this plan, according to the census of 1880, will be as follows : Alabama, 24 ; Georgia, 29 ; North Carolina, 22 ; South Carolina, 25 ; Virginia, 25 ; Mississippi, 26 ; Louisiana, 20 ; Tennessee and Texas, each 16 ; Kentucky, 11 ; Arkansas and Maryland, each 9 ; Missouri, 6 ; Florida, 5 ; Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, New Jersey, New York, and West Virginia, each 3 ; Pennsylvania and Ohio, each 4 ; California, Colorado, Nebraska, Connecticut, Iowa, Rhode Island, Maine, Michigan, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and the Territories, each 1.

Yours for the interests of the race,

FREDERICK DOUGLASS,
Chairman of the Committee.

JAMES M. GREGORY, *Secretary.*

ARTHUR ST. A. SMITH, *Corresponding Secretary.*

P. H. CARSON,
JOHN F. COOK,
W. R. LAWS,
GEORGE W. WILLIAMS,
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C. B. FISHER,
JOSEPH BROOKS,
G. S. BOSTON,
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W. C. CHASE,
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W. M. H. BARKER,
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JEROME A. JOHNSON,
JAMES HARRY SMITH,
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Committee.