

## THE PRESS CONVENTION.

DISTINGUISHED EDITORS PRESENT—  
SPEECHES BY HON. B. K. BRUCE,  
PROF. J. M. LANGSTON AND OTHERS.

The tenth annual session of the colored press of the United States convened at 11 o'clock Tuesday morning in the Metropolitan church on M St., n. w. President W. J. Simmons, D. D., editor of the *American Baptist*, called the convention to order, and read the call. Rev. Dr. McGiness offered prayer.

Mr. J. W. Cromwell, of the *People's Advocate*, introduced Hon. John M. Langston, who delivered the opening address of welcome on the part of the citizens. He, among other good things, said that the convention might congratulate themselves that they were "permitted to convene in a city that is a free city, and under the shadow of our lofty monument of Washington, you shall conduct your deliberations in positive assurance that no fear nor molestations from any source whatever may disturb or annoy you. \* \* \* The names of your journals, with which your efforts are associated, will be committed to memory by those trained in the schools and colleges for which the city is noted." Mr. Langston spoke for an hour, and was loudly applauded at the close.

Mr. Murry responded on behalf of the convention. He said that the colored journalists had come from every part of the country to deliberate upon the most important issues effecting the development and progress of 7,000,000 loyal people of the American republic. The convention would not be a partisan assembly, not one clamoring and wrangling for the spoils of office, but the defenders of the rights of a long suffering people. In this task, they had gone forward without prestige, without money, and with the prejudices of the whites and the illiteracy of the Negro forming mountains of obstructions in the way of progress. The speaker, with much effect and force of language, portrayed the present state of affairs that related to the race and said that the press of the colored people was the very power to be effective in bringing about the proper state of affairs.

The committee on the enrollment of members was appointed and when they retired short addresses were made by Rev. Dr. J. C. Price, of N. C.; Rev. Dr. W. B. Derrick, of New York; Robert Purvis, of Philadelphia; Hon. P. B. S. Pinchback, of Louisiana; Hon. Alex. Clarke, and Ex-Congressman Robert Smalls, of South Carolina.

There was a large number of delegates to the convention. After the report of the committee was adopted Mr. Cromwell of the *Peoples Advocate*, moved that T. F. Thompson, C. C. Stubb, and

T. B. Staunton, be appointed to convey to Mr. Fred. Douglass the kind wishes of the convention, and ask him to address the delegates on Thursday evening. A committee was appointed with Mr. Horn as chairman to arrange for a visit to the President of the United States. The convention then elected the following officers: Rev. W. J. Simmons, D. D., president; John Mitchell, V. pres.; Miss Ida B. Wells, Secty.; J. W. Cromwell, Treas. The convention then appointed the following committee to confer with railroads: J. W. Thompson, W. H. Stewart and A. E. McEwin; the associate press authorities, J. W. Cromwell, Historian, W. Calvin Chase and C. W. Fitzhugh. J. H. Henderson, of St. Paul, Minn., read a paper on "Colored News Association;" which was well received by the large audience. A very interesting feature of the day was the report of the committee on the religious, educational, political and industrial condition of the colored people of the South, which was prepared and read by John Mitchell, editor of *Richmond Planet*. The appalling statements was made in the report that 214 Negroes has been lynched for no cause but that they were colored.

The chairman appointed the following committee on executive appointment: W. Calvin Chase, Chairman, District of Columbia; A. E. McEwen, Alabama; T. M. Dent, Georgia; J. T. Turner, Tenn.; J. W. Bowser, Missouri. C. S. Brown, N. C.; and W. W. Evans, Virginia. The convention adjourned until Wednesday.

On Wednesday able addresses were made and well chosen topics. President Simmons presided. Mr. Pelhams paper, "How to conduct a news paper to make it a paying enterprise," was well received and discussed by Mr. Young of Tenn., and Mr. Clarke of Iowa. The chairman of the committee appointed to wait on the president through Mr. Horn, reported that the President would be pleased to receive the convention at 12 o'clock Thursday. The report of the committee on the condition of the colored people was read by John Mitchell, of the *Planet*. The substance of the report is as follows: The education of the race is producing what may be termed a "new Negro;" the colored people are crowding the schools of the South and the higher institutions of learning are producing men of acknowledged ability in the various professions. At this juncture, Ex-Senator Bruce, Hons. Fred. Douglass, Sol. G. Brown, and John F. Cook, ascended to the platform amid applause. The executive committee was then appointed.

Being a little behind, a full report will appear next week.