

He would therefore leave under the protection of the police, and send in the morning his resignation.

Rev. Darius Stokes begged Mr. Jones to remain—that the young colored gentlemen of Baltimore were not disposed to harm him. People had said that they had met there to sell their rights and liberties, but they would show them to-morrow that they only looked to their welfare and interests. This was the first time a colored Convention of the whole State had ever assembled in the State—a remarkable era in their history.

On motion of Mr. Stokes, a committee of ten was appointed to prepare a "platform" for the Convention. The following are the committee: H. H. Webb, of Baltimore; James A. Jones, of Kent; Charles O. Fisher, of Baltimore; B. Jenifer and Thomas Fuller, of Dorchester; Jacob Lewis, of Caroline; Joseph Bantum, of Talbot; Perry E. Walker, of Frederick; William Williams, of Baltimore, and Henry Hopkins, of Harford.

The Convention then adjourned till 9 o'clock this morning.

Among the delegates to the Convention the best possible order and decorum prevailed, and a disposition manifested to submit to almost any thing for peace sake; but among some one or two hundred lookers-on the worst behavior was exhibited ever noticed at any public assemblage. This party consisted of boys ranging from sixteen up to twenty-five, with a few older men interspersed, who declared their intention to be, to break up the Convention, and frequently their riotous proceedings prevented the transaction of business. These were opposed to Colonization, and were unwilling to permit those in favor of it the opportunity of consulting together. A few resolute officers could have filled the watch-house in a short time with most deserving characters.

In the streets around the Hall several hundred evil-disposed and riotous blacks congregated, and nothing but the presence of a body of the police prevented a general melee. As it was, several fights came off, and much uproar and confusion existed. Delegates to the Convention were assailed, and on leaving the hall a tumbler was thrown from a house occupied by blacks, at the Rev. Darius Stokes, against whom much animosity was manifested, which, however, missed him and struck a colored boy about twelve years of age on the head, cutting a ghastly though luckily not a dangerous wound. The police were compelled to guard Stokes through the streets, a crowd of worthless characters following him till he took refuge in a store on Baltimore street.

After the Convention adjourned a colored bragadocio mounted a bench, invoking the curses of Heaven on all concerned in it, and was cheered by the opposition crowd.

The police who had been detailed for duty at the place, by Capt. Herring, arrested eight or nine of the most disorderly, and secured them in the watch-house of the middle district. During the night, one of them named William P. Parraway was brought before Justice Kemp for examination. M. William Bridges, merchant, testified to his good character, and no definite charges having been made, he was released on security to keep the peace. The others will undergo examination this morning. It may be proper to add, that the captain of police, with a strong posse, will be present to-day, and will act in the most determined manner. The least evidence or exhibition of rowdyism will subject the offender to unpleasant treatment.

This body re-assembled at 10 o'clock yesterday morning at Washington Hall, the Rev. William Tasker, of Frederick, President, in the chair. The Convention was opened with prayer by the president.

A note was received from H. H. Webb, of Baltimore, declining to serve as a delegate to the Convention, stating that he was not able to attend, and did not approve of the manner in which he was elected.

In the absence of Josiah Hughes, of Dorchester, one of the Secretaries, Cornelius Campbell was appointed to fill the vacancy.

The proceedings of Monday not being ready; on motion, the report in the "Sun" was read in lieu thereof.

William Williams, of Baltimore, arose and stated that his name appeared in the committee on the platform through a mistake—he was not a delegate to the Convention.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers 1852-53