sonian at the time, was unable to head off the new trend, and it was not long before Douglass, too, had joined the political activists.

Nor were the men of these years willing to stand by merely to watch while the slave was being delivered from his chains. Better to demonstrate the blessings of self-made enterprise. Some condemned what they referred to as menial tasks, but if they went too far in this direction and made some people ashamed of what they had to do to make a living, they had the purest of motives in doing so. They wanted to see the black man in a position of respect. Some began to reexamine their stance on emigration. Could it be that a respected and industrious Negro nation beyond the bounds of the United States could help to destroy slavery and the cotton South? Most of these men were convinced that the open country had certain blessings for mankind not to be found in crowded city areas, so they advocated getting onto the farm as a means of uplift. The men of the 1840's lacked nothing in vigor and determination, nor was there any evidence of lack of the optimism so characteristic of America in the age when Manifest Destiny was so visibly with us.

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MINUTES

OF THE

NATIONAL CONVENTION

OF

COLORED CITIZENS:

HELD AT BUFFALO,

On the 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st of August, 1848.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF

CONSIDERING THEIR MORAL AND POLITICAL CONDITION

AS AMERICAN CITIZENS.

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