

HOUSTON, Texas, July 11th, 1883.

*I. B. Scott, Secretary of Colored Men's Convention :*

Please express my regrets to the Convention at not being able to attend. Sickness in my family prevents my doing so. I wish you much success in your deliberations.

R. ALLEN.

The President stated that he had received a communication from A. J. Moore, of Texas, now in Detroit, Mich., in which he expressed his disappointment in failing to reach the State in time to meet the Convention.

On motion of J. H. Jones, the chair appointed a committee to fix a basis for representation of the Colored Men's Convention in future. The following were appointed: J. H. Jones, R. Nelson, W. E. Reed.

The following were appointed to escort Gov. Ireland to the hall: H. T. Keeling, H. Swan, J. H. Jones.

The committee presented the Governor to the chair, who in turn introduced him to the Convention, hearty applause following.

The Governor delivered a plain and direct address. He neither abused nor flattered. He advised the Convention to do nothing to widen the breach between the white and colored races. He spoke in very complimentary terms of the work being done at the Prairie View State Normal School. He also advised that the Convention avoid the discussion of politics and hotel and railroad grievances. The Convention approved of at least a portion of the Governor's remarks. The hearty manner in which the reply of the President was applauded, showed him to have uttered the sentiments of the Convention. He assured the Governor that nothing would be done with the intention of severing the races, as their interests are one; also, that the Convention had no desire whatever to discuss politics. "But as long as the railroads sell us and our wives and daughters first-class tickets, and defraud us by compelling us to ride in second-class cars, where there is smoking, chewing, drinking and swearing, so long will colored men continue to agitate the question of railroad grievances."

On motion of W. W. Grimes, the Convention tendered a

WYSLI LIBRARY