

CONVENTION OF THE COLORED INHABITANTS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
AUGUST 18-20, 1840

Dear Zuille,¹--As you are aware, we left at 5 o'clock, to attend the State Convention at this place. Five of us took passage in the majestic steamer, Rochester, in preference to the cheap boat. We regarded the business before us too important, and of too lofty a character, to justify us in taking a barge of a boat, though at the lower price, to linger away we knew not how many hours, and hazard the chance of being in season for the opening of the Convention, as we should not as the sequel proved. We therefore came along in great speed, and were all treated like gentlemen, and arrived at half past four o'clock A.M.

Upon arriving, we found A. Crummell,² and C. L. Reason,³ in waiting, having stepped on board the North America as she passed, and arrived just ahead of us. We also found here, the noble spirited J. W. Duffin, of Geneva, who arrived on Friday evening, determined to be in season, and the dignified and noble minded A. Steward,⁴ of Rochester, both full of the spirit of the objects which brought us together.

At ten o'clock, the Rev. Theodore S. Wright⁵ called the Convention together--there being about 40 delegates present--by appointing our humble self, as Chairman. After a few remarks from the chair, prayer was offered by Rev. J. T. Raymond.⁶ Frederick Olney, and Charles Morton, were appointed Secretaries. A committee was appointed to make out the roll of delegates, and a committee appointed to nominate officers for the Convention, who, after having retired, returned and reported Austin Steward of Rochester, for President, R. P. G. Wright, of Schenectady, J. T. Raymond, of Albany, and Wm. P. Johnson, of New York, Vice Presidents. C. L. Reason, New York, H. H. Garnet,⁷ Troy, and Wm. Topp,⁸ of Albany, Secretaries. A business committee of ten was then appointed, through whose hands all business proper for the Convention should pass, consisting of Theo. S. Wright, F. Olney, P. H. Reason,⁹ C. B. Ray,¹⁰ J. W. Duffin, E. P. Rogers, Rev. Mr. Archer, C. Morton, J. Wencell, and George Baltimore. Mr. A. H. Francis, subsequently arriving from Buffalo, was added to the committee. There were four from New York, and the whole state was represented in committee. It was thought best to make it thus large. A committee of two was appointed to draft rules to govern the Convention. The Convention was adjourned to meet at two o'clock.

During the morning session, the delegates poured in from all directions, and when we assembled at two o'clock, we found the body of the house nearly filled.

The committee on rules to govern the Convention, reported a list, which were adopted. The business committee reported a set of resolutions, which were read, taken up separately, which, after some very harmonious and happy discussions, were disposed of by adopting some, and referring others to committees to report upon the subjects upon which they treat. The afternoon session continued in until six o'clock, during which time we transacted a large amount of business, beyond all expectation; we should think as much and