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REPORT

OF THE

MERCHANTS' COMMITTEE

FOR THE

Relief of Colored People  
SUFFERING

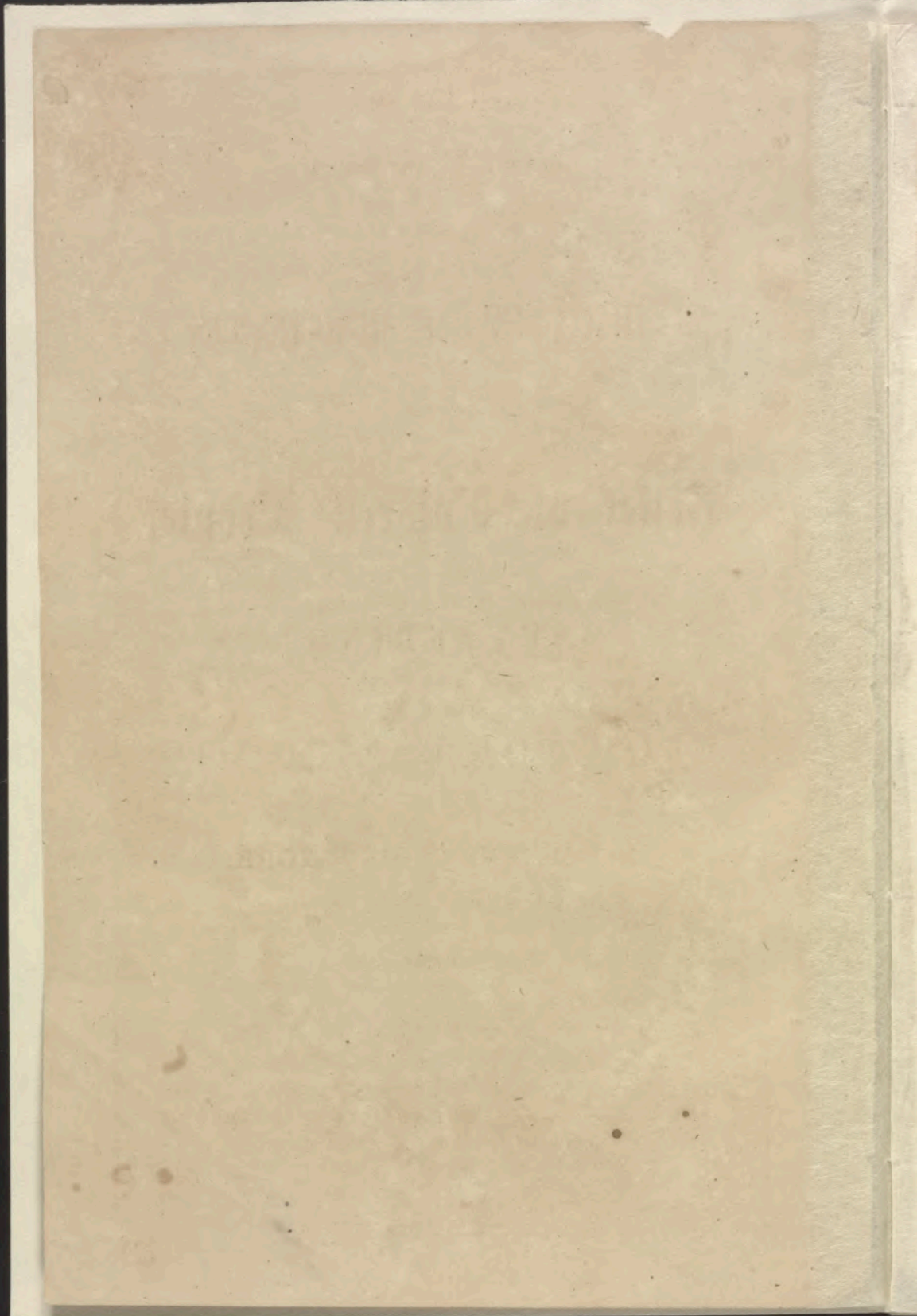
FROM THE

RIOTS IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

JULY, 1863.

*New York*

*W. H. ...*



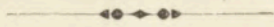
(7)

REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF MERCHANTS

FOR THE  
**Relief of Colored People,**  
SUFFERING  
FROM THE LATE RIOTS

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

*by N. Colyer*



New York:  
GEORGE A. WHITEHORNE, STEAM PRINTER,  
Nos. 119 FULTON & 42 ANN STREETS.  
1863.

# Relief Committee.

## GENERAL COMMITTEE.

BENJ. B. SHERMAN,	51 Front Street.
JOHN D. McKENZIE,	Cor. Old Slip and Front “
JONATHAN STURGES,	125 Front “
GEO. C. COLLINS,	96 Front “
WM. A. BOOTH,	95 Front “
A. F. OCKERSHAUSEN,	19 Rose “
T. C. DOREMUS,	45 Warren “
JACKSON S. SCHULTZ,	343 Pearl “
EDWARD CROMWELL,	30 Front “
RICHARD P. BUCK,	29 South “
WM. H. LEE,	314 Broadway.
HORACE GRAY, Jr.,	64 South Street.
WM. E. DODGE,	21 Cliff “
SAML. WILLETS,	303 Pearl “
WM. W. WICKES,	33 Front “
W. ALLEN,	Coenties Slip.
CHAS. E. BEEBE,	149 Front Street.
A. R. WETMORE,	81 Vesey Street.
JOSEPH B. COLLINS,	40 Wall Street.

Who appointed the following

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

JOHN D. McKENZIE, *Chairman,*  
JONATHAN STURGES, *Treasurer,*  
GEO. C. COLLINS, *Secretary.*

JACKSON S. SCHULTZ,  
A. R. WETMORE,

JOSEPH B. COLLINS,  
EDWARD CROMWELL.

# REPORT.

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The Executive Committee appointed for the relief of the colored people of New York and the adjacent places, having in a great measure concluded the work assigned to them, would respectfully report to the General Committee appointed by the merchants of New York, and to the contributors to the fund placed at their disposal, that the total amount received to date is \$40,779 08-100, as will appear by the statement of the Treasurer, Mr. Jonathan Sturges.

That this sum of money was sent to the Treasurer by the contributors in prompt response to the simple announcement that it would be needed. That no special appeals were necessary to urge subscriptions, and consequently no commissions were paid to collectors.

Of this amount, \$27,795 56 has already been expended. The balance, \$12,983 52, which the Committee have on hand, they expect to use in protecting those who have lost their property in the late riots, in the prosecuting of their claims against the city, in providing for the widows, orphans, and other dependent members of the families of those who were killed, and in such other ways as they may find will do the most good.

Two methods of action presented themselves to your committee. First; to refrain from relieving any one, until a personal visit had been made to ascertain the facts of the case. Second; to afford some immediate aid upon the best information that could be obtained from the persons applying for assistance, or through the colored pastors we employed. The first would possibly save us from some imposition; the second, would afford instant relief, which was absolutely necessary. After fully considering the two plans, we adopted both; the immediate relief plan, and that of personal examination through the colored pastors, and the visitors of the association for the relief of the poor. We are now satisfied that no other course

would so well have met the emergency, no other plan would have so promptly brought them out of their hiding places in the outskirts of the city and elsewhere—relieved their pressing wants, and encouraged them to seek their accustomed labor.

Probably some unworthy persons have been aided, but may we not hope, that even these may have been raised in their self-respect by the kind words and relief they received at our Central Depot. We aimed to produce a moral effect upon them, as well as to relieve their wants. One thing is certain, that in a few days our streets and wharfs were again filled with colored people going about their accustomed work.

In presenting this report it is necessary, in order to give a comprehensive view of the subject, that a copy of the Secretary's minutes of the first meetings of the Merchants should be given.

A preliminary meeting having been held on the previous Saturday, the following are the Minutes of the adjourned meeting, held Monday, July 20th, 1863 :

An adjourned meeting of Merchants, held at McCULLOUGH'S Sales Room, July 20th, 1863, JONATHAN STURGES, Esq., in the Chair. The Chairman opened the meeting with the following remarks :

For the information of those who were not present at the meeting held here on Saturday, it is proper that I should state its origin and object. The meeting was called on the suggestion of several gentlemen in Front Street, at a very short notice, to consider the destitute condition of the colored people of this city, who have been deprived of their homes and their little property, by a mob, during the past week ; to devise means to relieve their immediate wants, and to secure them in their peaceable and honest labor hereafter. I have been forty-one years a merchant in my present location. During this period I have seen a noble race of merchants pass away. I cannot help calling to mind the many acts of charity which they performed during their lives. I hardly need to name them ; you all know them. You know how they sent relief to Southern cities when they were desolated by fire or pestilence ; how they sent ship loads of food to the starving people of Ireland ; this last act of brotherly love we have had the privilege of imitating during the past winter ; and as often as occasion requires, I trust we shall be quick to continue these acts of humanity, thus showing that the race of New York Merchants is not deteriorating. We are now called upon to sympathize with a different class of our fellow men. Those who know the colored people of this city, can testify to their being a peaceable, industrious people, having their own churches, Sunday-schools and charitable Societies ; and that, as a class, they seldom depend upon charity ; they not only labor to support themselves, but to aid those who need aid. This is their general character, and it is

our duty to see that they are protected in their lawful labors, to save themselves from becoming dependent on the charity of the city. We have not come together to devise means for their relief because they are colored people, but because they are, as a class, persecuted and in distress at the present moment. It is not necessary for our present purposes to inquire who the men are who have persecuted, robbed and murdered them. We know they are bad men, who have not done as they would be done by. Let us not follow their example; let us be quick to relieve those who are now in trouble, and should we ever find those who have persecuted the negroes in like trouble, let us be quick to relieve them also, and thus obey the injunction of our Divine Master, "Bless those who persecute you."

Mr. J. D. MCKENZIE, in behalf of the Committee appointed July 18th, offered the following preamble and resolutions, viz :

*Whereas*, The condition of the colored people of this city, who have recently been deprived of their kindred by murderers, of their homes by fire, and of their accustomed means of support; having been forcibly driven therefrom by an infuriated mob, without cause or provocation, is such as not only to excite the sympathy of every good member of the community, of all parties and creeds, but also demands and should receive prompt pecuniary assistance and aid. That this may be effectually accomplished, We do hereby

*Resolve*, That a Committee of five Merchants be appointed by the Chairman of this Meeting, who, with the Treasurer of the Fund to be collected, as a member of the same, shall have full power to receive, collect and disburse funds in the purchase of necessary food and clothing, and in relieving the wants of the suffering colored population.

*Resolved*, That to said Committee, are hereby granted full powers to assist all colored people whose property has been destroyed by the mob, in making the needful proof of the facts to obtain redress from the County, under the Statute Laws of the State of New York, and that they have authority to collect funds and employ Counsel for that purpose.

*Resolved*, That we will exert all the influence we possess to protect the colored people of this city, in their rights to pursue, unmolested, their lawful occupations, and we do hereby call upon the proper authorities to take immediate steps to afford them such protection.

*Resolved*, That we will not recognize or sanction any distinction of persons, of whatever nation, religion or color, in their natural rights, to labor peaceably in their vocations, for the support of themselves and those dependent upon them; and that, so far as we are able, to contribute to the wants and necessities of our fellow men it shall be done without reference to these distinctions. And further, that what we now propose doing for the colored man, we shall ever be ready to do for any class of our fellow men, under like circumstances.

The meeting was addressed at some length by Mr. J. D. MCKENZIE upon the subject matter of the Resolutions, and briefly

by RICHARD WARREN, ESQ., REV. MR. LOOMIS, MESSRS. EDWARD CROMWELL, A. F. DOW, J. S. SCHULTZ, and others, when they were unanimously passed.

On motion, JONATHAN STURGES, ESQ., was elected treasurer of the fund proposed to be raised.

Messrs. B. R. SHERMAN, GEO. C. COLLINS, J. D. MCKENZIE, WM. A. BOOTH, A. F. OCKERSHAUSEN, were appointed by the Chairman as committee of five under the resolutions.

On motion, the Committee were authorized to add to their numbers at their discretion.

On motion, the Chairman and Secretary of the meeting were added to the Committee.

Subscriptions to the fund were then called for, when MR. EDWARD CROMWELL stated that he was authorized to hand to the Treasurer a check for \$800, on account of the fund subscribed by members of the Produce Exchange, and added that this was by no means the total of their probable contributions to the fund. Subscriptions to the amount of \$6,500, were recorded before the meeting adjourned.

On motion of WM. A. BOOTH, Esq., it was

*Resolved*, That a copy of the Resolutions adopted by this meeting, be furnished to Major General DIX, and that he be requested to give notice to the colored people to return to their usual employments, with the assurance that they shall be properly protected.

On motion, adjourned.

On Tuesday Mr. Vincent Colyer was present by invitation of Mr. Sturges, and addressed the Committee at some length, giving the result of his experience as Missionary among the Blacks of North Carolina and elsewhere, and suggesting a plan for the management of the fund so as to avoid fraud and secure the greatest benefit to those for whom the money was subscribed.

Mr. Colyer was authorized by the Executive Committee to secure a suitable central office, and was appointed Secretary in charge of the same, and a detailed report from him, is herewith submitted.

JOHN D. MCKENZIE, *Chairman.*



## Report of the Secretary.

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Driven by the fear of death at the hands of the mob, who the week previous had, as you remember, brutally murdered, by hanging on trees and lamp posts several of their number, and cruelly beaten and robbed many others, burning and sacking their houses and driving nearly all from the streets, alleys and docks upon which they had previously obtained an honest though humble living—these people had been forced to take refuge on Blackwell's Island, at Police Stations, on the outskirts of the city, in the swamps and woods back of Bergen, New Jersey, at Weeksville and in the barns and out-houses of the farmers of Long Island and Morrissania. At these places were scattered some 5,000 homeless and helpless men, women, and children.

The first great point to be gained was the restoring of the confidence of the colored people in the community, from which they had been driven. To do this a central depot was to be established to which they should be invited to come and receive aid with the fullest assurance that they should be protected.

Temporary aid might be sent them to their residences, as was done through the hand of Rev. Mr. Dennison, and through the Society for improving the condition of the poor.

This plan met your approval, and that evening, Tuesday, July 21st, I was instructed to look up an office and announce in the morning papers the contemplated purpose, and I did so.

On Wednesday, the present office, No. 350 Fourth Street, was secured, vacated by its former occupants, cleansed and opened for

business the following day, Thursday, July 23d, when 38 applicants received aid. On Friday, July 24th, the wants of 318 were attended to, and on Saturday, July 25th, the streets in the neighborhood were literally filled with applicants. The *N. Y. Express* thus describes the scene :--

At ten o'clock, Fourth street, near Broadway, was filled with colored people of both sexes, and all ages. They presented an aspect of abject poverty; and many of them bore evidence of the assaults made on them during the riots.

The building where relief was given to the applicants at No. 350 Fourth street, was soon surrounded by nearly three thousand negroes. Some of them had come into the city from woods and fields in different parts of the State, where they took refuge. They appeared to be no strangers to hunger; for when the good soldiers of the Twelfth Regiment, who are quartered up stairs in the building, "brushed" out their rations to the throng, there was a pitiable scramble to obtain them, and the lucky blacks retired to eat them.

The method of conducting business is thus described in the *N. Y. Times*:

The above institution, located at No. 350 Fourth street, is doing an immense amount of good in relieving the immediate wants of the colored people who suffered during the late riots. Yesterday the building was thronged with applicants, all of whom were provided for to some extent. The amount of money already collected for this fund amounts to over \$28,000, of which some \$7,000 has thus far been distributed.

Yesterday, males only were admitted to the apartments. Last Saturday was devoted exclusively to females. That order will be observed in future—the males having the privilege of the institution every other day, commencing from yesterday, and the females enter the alternate days. The hours of business are from 9 A. M. to 4 P. M. From 8 to 9 A. M. and from 4 to 5 P. M. the use of the room is extended to the legal profession, members of which assemble to give their services gratuitously to such of the colored sufferers as may desire to avail themselves of their valuable assistance. Yesterday over \$2,500 was distributed to 900 men. A considerable amount of clothing has been received by the Committee, but as yet none of it has been given out, the great want of the applicants being, at present, money. In the basement of the building a receptacle for clothing is being fitted up, so that, when the proper time arrives, it will be systematically and judiciously distributed.

It is well worth the attention of any one who takes an interest in the objects of the institution, to witness with what regularity and quietness business is conducted. The applicants enter the building by the basement, arranged with railings, so that, although full, only a single line can be formed, and in the order in which they enter. On the floor above are the officers and clerks seated at desks inclosed with railing, and as applicants enter the room they are taken by policemen in attendance to them. By this means confusion is avoided, and each clerk has no more at one time than he can promptly give relief to. Policemen are on duty in and about the establishment, and they perform their duties well and

kindly. Each clerk notes in a book the name of the applicant, his occupation and residence, the amount of loss sustained, and other particulars bearing upon his means and condition. If the person proves himself to be a worthy object of charity, he is furnished with a ticket which entitles him, on presenting the same to the Cashier, to receive a certain amount of money specified thereon. In no instance does the amount exceed \$5, unless the Committee are satisfied upon evidence adduced, that the party is actually in need of more. It is the intention of the Committee to send out missionaries next week for the express purpose of looking up special cases of destitution. Rev. H. GARNETT (colored) is at present engaged at the institution in investigating the special cases which offer themselves there, as his extensive acquaintance among the colored people enables him to decide upon the veracity of the statements made by many of them.

The first object of the Committee is to relieve the immediate wants of the colored people who have suffered by the riots. When that has been accomplished measures will be taken to increase the sphere of their usefulness.

#### The New York daily *Tribune* speaks as follows:

The rooms devoted to this charitable enterprise are easy of access, and centrally located on a quiet street not far from Police Headquarters, where protection can soon reach the sufferers in the event of a disturbance. These rooms have been temporarily fitted up with benches and tables for the accommodation of those who apply for assistance.

The distribution of funds has been reduced to such a perfect system, that in a few hours a dozen men can record the names, give out the tickets and disburse the money appropriated for that purpose, to three thousand persons. A set of books containing the name, occupation, residence, and necessities of each applicant is kept in the same exact and nice manner that a merchant or a banker would keep his accounts. The funds are not filtered through many hands. The sufferer has not to wait until patience ceases to be a virtue before his case is considered. There are no harsh or unkind words uttered by the clerks—no impertinent quizzing in regard to irrelevant matters—no partizan or sectarian view, advanced. The business is transacted in a straightforward, practical manner, without chilling the charity into an offense by creating the impression that the recipient is humiliated by accepting the gift. To the credit of the colored sufferers they gratefully receive the small sums given to them without criticism or jealousy, knowing that they can call again in the hour of need without being “bluffed” away with an unpleasant reminder that they had been assisted before. Those who are prudent and honest need not be afraid to repeat their requests in the time of necessity. The object of the fund is to help the sufferers along over the slough during this low tide in their affairs, and as fast as they can take care of themselves, they are expected to cease their applications for help from the committee. Among the volunteers who have put their shoulders to the wheel in this work, are the Rev. S. H. Tyng, Jr., Rev. H. B. Barton and George Hancock, Esq., the Rev. H. H. Garnett, the Rev. Mr. Ray, and others.

During the month ending August 21st there have been 3,942 women, and 2,450 men, making a total of 6,392 persons of mature age, relieved; full one-third being heads of families, whose children

were included in the relief afforded by your committee, making a total of 12,782 persons relieved.

From these persons 8,121 visits were received and aid was given ; to which add 4,000 applicants whose calls were not responded to, as they had previously been aided sufficiently, and you have 12,121 applicants whose cases were considered and acted upon at the office during the month. Add to this the work of the members of the legal profession, Messrs. JAS. S. STEARNS and CEPHAS BRAINERD, who have been indefatigable in their labors, assisted by several other gentlemen, by whom 1,000 notices of claims for damages against the city, have been made out, copied and duly presented to the Comptroller, while our clerks have recorded on the books over 2,000 claimants for a sum of over \$145,000, together with a considerable distribution of clothing by two colored clerks, and a fair idea of the work done in this office, during the month may be obtained and a reason for what might otherwise appear a large amount of expenditure.

Of the 2,450 men relieved, their occupations were as follows :

1,267 Laborers and Longshoremen,	4 Tailors.
177 Whitewashers	3 Artists.
176 Drivers for Cartmen,	3 Music Teachers.
250 Waiters,	3 Coopers.
124 Porters,	2 Engravers.
97 Sailors and Boatmen,	2 Janitors.
72 Coachmen,	2 Measurers.
45 Cooks,	2 Oystermen.
37 Barbers,	2 Undertakers.
34 Chimney Sweepers,	1 Landlord.
25 Tradesmen,	1 Flour Inspector.
20 Butchers,	1 Teacher.
15 Bootblacks,	1 Copyist.
11 Ministers or Preachers,	1 Farmer.
11 Shoemakers,	1 Botanist.
11 Tobacconists,	1 Physician.
11 Wood sawyers,	1 Book-binder.
8 Carpenters,	1 Tin Smith.
7 Basket-makers,	1 Upholsterer.
6 Scavengers	1 Black Smith.
5 Carpet shakers,	

Of the 3,942 women, were

2,924 Day's work women,	13 Hucksters.
664 Servants hired by month,	4 Teachers.
163 Seamstresses,	1 Artist.
106 Cooks,	1 Boarding-house keeper.
19 Worked in Tobacco factory,	1 Basket-maker.
13 Nurses,	32 Infirm.

In the height of the crowd of applications it was found necessary to employ as many as ten clerks, and several special policemen. These last, together with one regular patrolman who is still with us, preserved excellent order and were kindly furnished by Mr. Acton, of the Metropolitan Police, free of charge.

As soon as the most pressing necessities of the sufferers were relieved through the office, colored clergymen were employed by your direction as missionaries to visit the applicants for relief at their residences, four of the clerks were discharged and four clergymen employed in their places—The Rev. Mr. Ray, Rev. Mr. Leonard, Rev. Mr. Carey and John Peterson in addition to the Rev. H. H. Garnett, who was with us, and whose services have been invaluable from the first. These missionaries made 3,000 visits, relieving the wants of 1000, and examining the cases of 3,000 persons, and nearly all the payments of the last week were made upon their representation.

I refer with pleasure to the valuable aid rendered the Committee by the City Tract Missionaries as Secretaries of the Association for improving the condition of the poor, not only in promptly supplying on our behalf, the pressing wants of the colored people in the different wards, but in giving such reports of applicants as facilitated our work at the office.

A good many applications for servants have been made, and as it seemed desirable that places should be provided for many of the sufferers as soon as possible, a book was kept open for employers needing servants and servants needing employment to register their names. Constant pressure of business, however, and the demand for servants in most cases far exceeding the supply, left this branch of useful mission work quite incomplete.

A large number of workmen having been discharged by their employers, who were in fear of damage to their property by the mob, the following appeal from the Executive Committee was printed and sent on 31st July to merchants and corporations employing colored laborers.

TO THE MERCHANTS AND OTHER EMPLOYERS OF LABORERS IN NEW YORK :

The undersigned, an Executive Committee appointed at a large and influential meeting of the Merchants of New York, to dispense the funds contributed by them in aid of the colored sufferers by the late riot, have been instructed by the General Committee to address their fellow-citizens in relation to the objects of their care. The Committee have learned, with deep regret, that in various ways obstacles have been thrown in the way of the attempt of colored laborers to resume their wonted occupation, cases having occurred where men who had labored faithfully for years in a situation have been refused a restoration to their old places. Street railroads, by which many had been accustomed to pass from their distant homes to their usual places of business, have refused them permission to ride, and have thus deprived them of the ability to perform their customary duties and earn their needful pay. The undersigned, in behalf of the Merchants of this great Metropolis, respectfully but urgently call upon their fellow-citizens to unite in protecting the injured and persecuted class, whose cause the Committee advocate. The full and equal right of the colored man to work for whoever chooses to employ him, and the full and equal right of any citizen to employ whoever he will, is too manifest to need proof. Competition is indispensable to the successful management of commercial business ; surely the energetic, enterprising merchants of this city will not allow any interference with their rights. On the other hand, if the colored population, from a want of firmness on the part of the whites, be deprived of their just rights to earn an honest living, they will become a dependent, pauper race. The Committee, therefore, earnestly appeal to the good feelings, to the sense of justice, to the manliness of every employer of whatever class, to restore the colored laborer to his customary place, and to sustain him in it. They appeal to the Board of Directors of our Street Railroads to give them all the immunities they ever enjoyed ; and to the managers of all associations and corporations requiring many operatives, to restore the old order of things. While they enjoin upon merchants and others to maintain their right to employ whoever they please, it is no

part of their purpose to recommend the discharge of one class and the substitution of another. What they do ask is that where colored laborers have been employed, they should not be discharged in this emergency ; and the Committee would appeal to those laboring men who would drive colored men from the city, to consider the principle they would thus establish, and see how it may react upon themselves. Should they succeed in this attempt they would compel many white laborers now in the country to seek employment in the city, and before they were aware of it a new class of laborers would be brought into the city, and the wages of labor would be reduced. The laws of the demand and supply of labor cannot be permanently changed by combinations or persecutions.

The merchants of New York, the main supporters of every enterprise undertaken in our city, ask that this appeal may have the favorable consideration and support of every citizen.

In conclusion the committee are fully authorized to state that the Police of our city who behaved so nobly during the recent troubles will render any aid which may possibly be needed, but the want of which is not anticipated.

J. D. MCKENZIE, CHAIRMAN.

The work before us, is now, chiefly to take care of the claims against the city of those who have lost property by the riots. In the pressure with which sufferers applied for relief, it was not possible to do more than take a general estimate of their losses. These have now been revised and a more particular statement of items obtained. Others have been sought out at their residences, and notified to come and have their claims made out. And it will be our duty to see that they are properly presented to the Comptroller and prosecuted against the city, within the time prescribed by the law.

To appreciate the situation of the colored people, at the time this office was opened, and to understand, even partially, the character of the mission with which we have been occupied, and, believing it would be interesting to the majority of the readers of this Report, I have taken down the testimony of several of the sufferers, and collected together from the daily papers, a few of the authentic

## Incidents of the Riot.

ABRAHAM FRANKLIN.

This young man who was murdered by the mob on the corner of Twenty-seventh St., and Seventh avenue, was a quiet, inoffensive man, 23 years of age, of unexceptionable character, and a member of Zion African Church in this city. Although a cripple, he earned a living for himself and his mother by serving a gentleman in the capacity of coachman. A short time previous to the assault upon his person, he called upon his mother to see if anything could be done by him for her safety. The old lady, who is noted for her piety and her Christian deportment, said she considered herself perfectly safe; but if her time to die had come, she was ready to die. Her son then knelt down by her side, and implored the protection of Heaven in behalf of his mother. The old lady was affected to tears, and said to our informant that it seemed to her that good angels were present in the room. Scarcely had the suppliant risen from his knees, when the mob broke down the door, seized him, beat him over the head and face with fists and clubs, and then hanged him in the presence of his mother.

While they were thus engaged, the military came and drove them away, cutting down the body of Franklin, who raised his arm once slightly and gave a few signs of life.

The military then moved on to quell other riots, when the mob returned and again suspended the now probably lifeless body of Franklin, cutting out pieces of flesh and otherwise mutilating it.

AUGUSTUS STUART.

Died at the Hospital, Blackwell's Island July 22d, from the effects of a blow received at the hands of the mob, within one block and a half of the State Arsenal, corner 7th Avenue and 35th street, on Wednesday evening, July 15th. He had been badly beaten previously by a band of rioters and was frightened and insane from the effects of the blows which he had received. He was running towards the Arsenal for safety when he was overtaken by the mob from whom he received his death blow.

Mrs. Stuart, his wife, says that some of the rioters declared that at



the second attack upon him he had fired a pistol at his pursuers ; but she says that if he did, he must have obtained the weapon from some friend after he had left home, a few minutes before, for he had no weapon then, nor was he ever known to have had one. He was a member of the church.

— o —

PETER HEUSTON.

Peter Heuston, sixty-three years of age, a Mohawk Indian, with dark complexion and straight black hair, who has for several years been a resident of this city, at the corner of Rosevelt and Oak streets, and who has obtained a livelihood as a laborer, proved a victim to the late riots.

His wife died about three weeks before the riots, leaving with her husband an only child, a little girl named Lavinia, aged eight years, whom the Merchants' Committee have undertaken to adopt with a view of affording her a guardianship and an education. Hueston served with the New York Volunteers in the Mexican War, and has always been loyal to our government. He was brutally attacked on the 13th of July by a gang of ruffians who evidently thought him to be of the African race because of his dark complexion. He died within four days at Bellevue Hospital from his injuries.

At the end of the Mexican War Heuston received a land warrant from the government, which enabled him to settle on a tract of land at the West, where he lived but a short time previous to his coming to this city.

— o —

JEREMIAH ROBINSON.

Mrs. Nancy Robinson, widow of the above, killed in Madison near Catherine street, says that her husband in order to escape dressed himself up in some of her clothes, and in company with herself and one other woman left their residence and went towards one of the Brooklyn Ferries.

Robinson wore a hood, which failed to hide his beard. Some boys seeing his beard, lifted up the skirts of his dress, which exposed his heavy boots. Immediately the mob set upon him and the atrocities they perpetrated upon him are so indecent, they are unfit for publication. They finally killed him and threw his body into the river.

His wife and her companion ran up Madison street and escaped across the Grand street Ferry to Brooklyn.

— o —

WILLIAM JONES.

A crowd of rioters in pursuit of a negro, who in self defence had fired on some rowdies who had attacked him, met an innocent colored

man returning from a bakery with a loaf of bread under his arm. They instantly set upon and beat him and after nearly killing him, hanged him to a lamp-post. His body was left suspended for several hours and was much mutilated.

A sad illustration of the painful uncertainty which hung over the minds of the wives and children of the colored men was found in the fact that two wives and their families, were both mourning the loss of their husbands in the case of this man, for upwards of two weeks after its occurrence. And so great was the fear inspired by the mob that no white person had dared to manifest sufficient interest in the mutilated body of the murdered man while it remained in the neighborhood to be able to testify as to who it was. At the end of two weeks the husband of one of the mourners to her great joy returned, like one recovered from the grave.

The principal evidence which the widow, Mary Jones, has to identify the murdered man as her husband is the fact of his having a loaf of bread under his arm. He having left the house to get a loaf of bread a few minutes before the attack.

One of our colored missionaries is still investigating the case.

—o—

#### WM. HENRY NICHOLS

Died July 16th, from injuries received at the hands of the rioters on the 15th of July.

Mrs. Statts, his mother, tells this story :—

The father of Wm. Henry died some years ago, and the boy has since, by good behavior, with persevering industry, earned his own living ; he was a communicant of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in good standing. I had arrived from Philadelphia, the previous Monday evening, before any indications of the riot were known, and was temporarily stopping, on Wednesday, July 15th, at the house of my son, No. 147 East 28th street.

At 3 o'clock of that day the mob arrived and immediately commenced an attack with terrific yells, and a shower of stones and bricks, upon the house. In the next room to where I was sitting was a poor woman, who had been confined with a child on Sunday, three days previous. Some of the rioters broke through the front door with pick axes, and came rushing into the room where this poor woman lay, and commenced to pull the clothes from off her. Knowing that their rage was chiefly directed against men, I hid my son behind me and ran with him through the back door, down into the basement. In a little while I saw the innocent babe, of three days old, come crashing down into the yard ; some of the rioters had dashed it out of the back window, killing it instantly. In a few minutes streams of water came pouring down into the basement, the mob had cut the Croton water-pipes with their axes. Fearing we should be drowned in the cellar, (there were ten of us, mostly women and children, there) I took my boy and flew past the dead body of the babe, out to the rear of the yard, hoping to escape with him through an open lot into 29th street ; but here, to our

horror and dismay, we met the mob again ; I, with my son, had climbed the fence, but the sight of those maddened demons so affected me that I fell back, fainting, into the yard ; my son jumped down from the fence to pick me up, and a dozen of the rioters came leaping over the fence after him. As they surrounded us my son exclaimed, "save my mother, gentlemen, if you kill me." "Well, we will kill you," they answered ; and with that two ruffians seized him, each taking hold of an arm, while a third, armed with a crow-bar, calling upon them to stand and hold his arms apart, deliberately struck him a heavy blow over the head, felling him, like a bullock, to the ground. (He died in the N. Y. hospital two days after).\* I believe if I were to live a hundred years I would never forget that scene, or cease to hear the horrid voices of that demoniacal mob resounding in my ears.

They then drove me over the fence, and as I was passing over, one of the mob seized a pocket-book, which he saw in my bosom, and in his eagerness to get it tore the dress off my shoulders.

I, with several others, then ran to the 29th street Station House, but we were here refused admittance, and told by the Captain that we were frightened without cause. A gentleman who accompanied us told the Captain of the facts, but we were all turned away.

I then went down to my husband's, in Broome Street, and there I encountered another mob, who, before I could escape commenced stoning me. They beat me severely.†

I reached the house but found my husband had left for Rahway. Scarcely knowing what I did, I then wandered, bewildered and sick, in the direction he had taken, and towards Philadelphia, and reached Jersey City, where a kind, Christian gentleman, Mr. Arthur Lynch, found me, and took me to his house, where his good wife nursed me for over two weeks, while I was very sick.

I am a member of the Baptist Church, and if it were not for my trust in Christ I do not know how I could have endured it.

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JAMES COSTELLO.

James Costello, 97 West 33d street, killed on Tuesday morning, July 14th. Costello was a shoe maker, an active man in his business—industrious and sober. He went out early in the morning upon an errand, was accosted, and finally was pursued by a powerful man. He ran down the street—endeavored to make his escape—was nearly overtaken by his pursuer—in self-defence he turned and shot the rioter

\* It was two weeks after the burial of the body of the murdered man before Mrs. S. was well enough to call at the N. Y. Hospital and examine his clothes, and although she is positive as to their having belonged to her son, the surgeon in charge says that there are other circumstances which leave it uncertain.

† Mrs. Staats here showed me the bruises on her arms ; they are still plainly marked at this date, (Aug. 27,) and she assured me that her neck, shoulders and back were worse.—V. C.

with a revolver. The shot proved to be mortal—he died two days after.

Costello was immediately set upon by the mob. They first mangled his body, then hanged it. They then cut down his body and dragged it through the gutters smashing it with stones, and finally burnt it. The mob then attempted to kill Mrs. Costello and her children, but she escaped by climbing fences, and taking refuge in a Police Station-house. Mrs. Costello is a Christian woman and has three or four children.

Meantime a woman told the mob that a row of tenement houses in the rear were occupied by colored people, when the ringleader armed with a cudgel, entered the place in search of the inmates, but they had effected their escape, having been apprised of their danger by some friendly neighbors, at the commencement of the outbreak. Incensed at the escape of their prey, the mob burned the buildings. Upon the arrival of the police the rioters fled.

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MRS. DERICKSON.

A white woman, wife of Mr. Derickson, living at No 11 York street, was set upon by the mob and so severely beaten, that she died in a week afterwards.

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JOSEPH REED.

Mrs. Susan Reed, who, with her two children, one a babe of tender years and the other Joseph Reed, an invalid boy, about seven years of age was living with her mother, Mrs. Simmons, at 147 East 28th street.

Upon the approach of the mob, the inmates of this humble tenement became alarmed. The mother, with simple but still, under the circumstances, the most commendable honesty, fearing that the clothes which had been intrusted to her in her business as a laundress might be destroyed, hastened to return them to the owner. The grandmother thus left alone, at the approach of the rioters, started for a place of safety with the babe, directing the poor, sick boy to follow her. In the dreadful confusion he was parted from her, was set upon by the mob, was beaten, was savagely asked with frightful oaths if he would be hung or have his throat cut, and some of the more busy devils looked about for a rope to execute their fiendish purpose. He was rescued by a gallant fireman, named John F. McGovern, a member of 39 Hose Company, who carried him to a house in 30th street, where the landlady affrighted at the consequences of harboring a colored boy at that time of terror, on her knees implored the fireman to take him elsewhere. A German neighbor next door overhearing the interview came forward and promptly offered to take care of him.

The fright, the dreadful beating which he had received, the shock to his nervous system, had been too much for the child, and on Tuesday

he went to a place where black and white are alike in the sight of Him who made both, and where the prejudices and cruelties of man will no longer torture his young soul.

He was a Sunday school scholar at the Church of the Mediator, Rev. Stephen H. Tyng, Jr., pastor, who thus speaks of him :

A CHILD MARTYR.

Early in the month of May a boy of some seven summers presented himself for admission to the Sunday School of the Church of the Mediator in this City. From the first Sunday he was the object of special interest on the part of both his pastor and teacher. Always punctual in his attendance, tidy in appearance, and eager to learn, he soon won the affection of all his fellows in the Infant-Class to which he belonged. But though comely, he was *black*. The prejudice which his color excited amongst those of meaner mould he quickly disarmed by his quiet, respectful, Christian manner. He was a child-Christian. What more lovely is there on earth! What more highly esteemed is there in Heaven! Little did those who thus casually met him from Sunday to Sunday imagine the witness of suffering, God had purposed to perfect in him!

At the time of the late riot he was living with an aged grandmother and widowed mother at No.—East 28th street. On Wednesday morning of that fearful week, a crowd of ruffians gathered in the neighborhood, determined on a work of plunder and death. They stole everything they could carry with them; and, after threatening and affrighting the inmates, set fire to the house. The colored people, who had the sole occupancy of the building, were forced in confusion into the midst of the gathering crowd. And then the child was separated from his guardians. He was alone among lions. But ordinary humanity, common decency, had exempted a child so young anywhere from brutality. But no. No sooner did they see his unprotected, defenceless condition, than a company of fiendish men surrounded him. They seized him in their fury and beat him with sticks, and bruised him with heavy cobble-stones. But one, ten-fold more the servant of Satan than the rest, rushed at the child, and with the stock of a pistol struck him on the temple and felled him to the ground. A noble young fireman—God bless the firemen for their manly deeds—a noble young fireman by the name of McGovern instantly came to the rescue, and single-handed held the crowd at bay. Taking the wounded and unconscious boy in his arms, he went to the house of an American citizen close by, and asked to have him received. But on her knees the woman begged him not to leave the dying sufferer with her, “lest the mob should tear her to pieces.” It was a suffering Saviour in the person of His humblest child. Naked, and wounded, and a stranger, they took him not in. But a kind hearted German woman made him a sharer of her poverty. With more than a mother’s care did she nurse the forsaken one. A physician was called, and both night and day she faithfully watched over the bed of him outcast from his brethern. Our hearts bless her for her goodness to our child.

By name she is as yet unknown, but by her deeds well known and well beloved. His distracted mother found her cherished boy in these kind hands. And when she saw him, in the earnest simplicity of her spirit she knelt in prayer to thank God for the fulfillment of His promise. “God hath taken him up.” The lad lingered until Thursday evening, when the Saviour released him from his sufferings; and “the child was caught up to God and the throne.”

This is the Pastor's memorial to little Joseph Reed, a martyr, by the brutality and inhumanity of men, to the cause of Law and Order and Right. A tablet to his memory shall be placed on the walls of the Sunday-School room to which he loved to come. Those who were kind to him we count as benefactors to us. May the God of all grace richly reward them with the blessings of His love. Buried on earth without a prayer, but with praises welcomed in heaven, the chosen loved child of the family "Joseph is not" S. H. T. Jr.

NEW-YORK CITY. }  
September 10th, 1863. }

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— "WILLIAMS"

A man with a basket on his arm was going down Washington street; on the corner of Leroy street he stopped to inquire of some young men, the way to the market. He was immediately attacked and badly beaten. The police arrived and drove off the ruffians; but the poor fellow was so much injured, that after lingering in great suffering and in an insensible condition for several days at the New York Hospital, he finally died. In response to the inquiry as to what was his name, made by the attending surgeons, he replied in an indistinct way, "Williams."

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JOSEPH JACKSON,

Aged 19 years, living in West 53d Street near 6th Avenue, was in the industrious pursuit of his humble occupation of gathering provender for a herd of cattle, and when near the foot of 34th street, East River, July 15th, was set upon by the mob, killed, and his body thrown into the river.

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SAMUEL JOHNSON

Was killed in the neighborhood of Fulton Ferry. The particulars of his history have not yet been obtained, though he is supposed to have been the son of William Johnson, whose experience we quote below:

WILLIAM JOHNSON,

The first case brought to our notice was that of William Johnson, a colored man, who resides with his family in Roosevelt street. He was walking down the Second avenue near Thirty-sixth street, at a late hour on Wednesday night, July 15th, hoping that the lateness of the hour and the darkness of the street would shield him from observation, and enable him to visit a friend who resides in an alley-way not far from that locality. As he reached the corner he was hailed

by a party of young men—none of them more than twenty-two or three years of age—who asked him jokingly to look at his watch and tell them the time. Johnson made no reply but passed quietly on, when one of them running up behind him, struck him a violent blow on the back of the head, and at the same time tripped him, so that he fell full length upon the pavement. Instantly the whole set jumped upon him, kicked him, and brutally bruised him, so that he lay for a while insensible. He was then thrown upon the steps of a grocery and left to die, or get up, as the chances of life might best favor.

Toward morning the unfortunate man came to, and slowly dragged himself the long, weary distance to his home. Fortunately he was unnoticed, and unhindered, so that he reached his door in safety.

But, as though to prove the old adage that troubles never come singly, he had but just stepped in doors, when he was met by his heart-broken wife, who told him of the presence of his dying son, a waiter, whose employer's place is in the lower part of the City, and who, on his way home was beaten and left for dead by a mob of 'long-shoremen, and was brought home in a dying state by the kind hands of the police. The son died before noon, but the father, though terribly battered and bruised, is living, and will doubtless fully recover.

The following

#### CASE OF BRUTALITY

is one of the worst, so far as beating is concerned, which has come under our observation: At a late hour on Wednesday night, a colored man, named Charles Jackson, was passing along West street, in the neighborhood of Pier No. 5, North river. He was a laboring man, and was dressed in a tarpaulin, a blue shirt, and heavy duck trousers. As he was passing a groggery in that vicinity, he was observed by a body of dock men, who instantly set after him. He ran with all the swiftness his fears could excite, but was overtaken before he had gone a block. His persecutors did not know him nor did they entertain any spite against him beyond the fact that he was a black man and a laborer about the docks, which they consider their own peculiar field of labor. Nevertheless they knocked him down, kicked him in the face and ribs, and finally by the hands of their leader, deliberately attempted to *cut his throat*. The body, dead they supposed it, was then thrown into the water and left to sink. Fortunately life was not extinct and the sudden plunge brought the poor fellow to his senses, and being a good swimmer he was enabled instinctively to seek for the net work of the dock. This he soon found, but was so weak from the loss of blood and so faint with pain that he could do no more than hold on and wait for day. The day after, Messrs. Kelly and Curtis, of Whitehall, discovered him lying half dead in the water. They at once attended to his wants, gave him in charge of the Police-boat and had him sent to the hospital. The escape of the man from death by the successive abuses of beating, knifing, and drowning, is most wonderful. So determined and bitter is the feeling of the 'longshoremen against negroes that not one of the latter dared show themselves upon the docks or piers, even when a regular employe of the place.

From an old man in Sullivan street, a very patriarch in years and progeny, we gathered the following

INTERESTING STATEMENT.

I am a whitewasher by trade, and have worked, boy and man, in this city for sixty-three years. On Tuesday afternoon I was standing on the corner of Thirtieth street and Second avenue, when a crowd of young men came running along shouting "Here's a nigger, here's a nigger." Almost before I knew of their intention, I was knocked down, kicked here and there, badgered and battered without mercy, until a cry of "the Peelers are coming" was raised; and I was left almost senseless, with a broken arm and a face covered with blood, on the railroad track. I was helped home on a cart by the officers, who were very kind to me, and gave me some brandy before I got home. *I entertain no malice and have no desire for revenge* against these people. Why should they hurt me or my colored brethren? We are poor men like them; we work hard and get but little for it. I was born in this State and have lived here all my life, and it seems hard, very hard, that we should be knocked down and kept out of work just to oblige folks who won't work themselves and don't want others to work.

We asked him if it was true that the negroes had formed any organization for self-defence, as was rumored. He said no; that, so far as he knew, "they all desire to keep out of the way, to be quiet, and do their best toward allaying the excitement in the City."

The room in which the old man was lying was small, but it was the kitchen, sitting-room, bedroom and garret of four grown persons and five children.

Instances of this kind might be multiplied by the dozen, gathered from the lips of suffering men, who, though wounded and maimed by ruffians and rioters, are content to be left alone, and wish for no revenge.

At a little after noon, on Monday, July 20th, a number of

NEGROES WERE ATTACKED

on Broad street by a rough mob of rioters. At first the negroes were disposed to stand and resist the attack, but being overpowered by superior numbers, they broke ranks and scattered, seeking refuge in the halls and cellars of the adjacent stores. Individuals of them were caught and severely injured by kickings and beatings, but none were fatally injured. At one time it looked as though most serious results would ensue, but on the appearance of the Police the mob dispersed and the street was again quiet. The Police sought out the colored men and took them to the Station-house for protection.

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A RAID UPON THE NEGROES.

On Wednesday July 15th, about twelve o'clock, the neighborhood of St. John's Park was thrown into terrible confusion by an onslaught



upon the houses of a community of unfortunate negroes. In York street, which is only a block in length, running from West Broadway to a lane back of St. John's Church, two rows of small wooden and brick houses are situated, mostly occupied by negro white washers and ironers, who are among the most harmless and law abiding of our citizens. In accordance with intimations thrown out during the day before by the *habitués* of a low tavern at the corner of York street and West Broadway, a crowd of Irish, about a hundred strong, at midnight assaulted the buildings, and amid the shrieks and groans of the unfortunate women and children the whole precinct was devoted to destruction.

How the ill-fated negroes contrived to escape is perfectly marvelous; with one or two exceptions, however, in which the parties were slightly wounded, they managed somehow to get away. Renewed attempts were made at a later hour to set the neighborhood in flames, but from some reason or other they proved abortive. About 1 o'clock, after the rioters had done their worst, and carried off the little all of these unfortunate creatures, in the way of beds, chairs, tubs, smoothing irons, etc., a body of cavalry arrived upon the ground.

On Thursday morning the scene presented was desolate beyond description. Not a vestige of glass remained in the windows, the sashes were gone, the doors presented the appearance of lattice-work with the apertures very large, and great heaps of bricks and stones were piled upon the stoops and dispersed about the floors of the rooms. In response to our question as to whether the mob had robbed her of everything, a poor negro woman replied, with a look of abject despair and quiet resignation: "Pretty much all, sir."

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#### GUIDE IN GENERAL BURNSIDE'S DEPARTMENT.

Among the beneficiaries is a colored man named Samuel Williams, who acted as a guide under General Burnside during his campaign in North Carolina. While serving in this capacity Williams rendered valuable service to the Union troops, in the department and in one instance projected and led a reconnoitering expedition against the enemy, which resulted in obtaining much valuable information, besides the capture of prisoners.

When General Burnside left the coast for the Rappahannock and Washington, Williams was conveyed north with his family by me. He soon found means for gaining an honest livelihood and settled down in Jersey city.

At the time of the riots here last month he was driven with his family from his home and was obliged to take refuge in the salt meadows back of Jersey City, where he remained for ten days, subsisting on such articles of food as could be obtained. Upon returning home they found that their house had been sacked of everything, including their small stock of goods which was their only means of subsistence.

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#### AN HEROIC WHITE WOMAN.

An interesting story of the heroism with which a lady, the wife of one

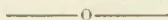
of our firemen, saved the lives of several colored people, is told by Richard Wilson, a Methodist Elder, who resided at No. 95 West 32d. street.

"On Tuesday at 9 o'clock, A. M. the mob came ; my wife and one daughter went out the front basement way, escaping with a few bruises. As it was the men they were most violent against, my other daughter remained with me and my three sons, declaring that she would risk her life with her father. Finding the rioters would soon break through, we all climbed over the back fence into the yard where this lady lived. Instantly she came out to meet us and told us to hide ourselves as quickly as possible in her basement cellar. But the mob had espied us and quick as thought they surrounded her house. She calmly went out to the front door and met them, demanding what they were making all that clamor about, at her house.

The mob were for a moment foiled by her coolness, and she immediately took advantage of the quiet to tell a neighbor to run as quick as his feet could carry him to the Arsenal and bring the soldiers. She then ordered her girl to pack up all her more valuable things in trunks and sent for a carman to come for them.

By this time the mob had become intensely excited—assured by some of their fellows—of the presence of the blacks in the basement. They rushed up the steps and tried to get past the noble woman. 'I tell you, she said, no one goes in this house except over my dead body.' Her resolute manner, though she was a woman of small stature, awed them. 'If I had my sword here,' muttered a ruffian who appeared like a runaway soldier, 'I would settle you.'

'As soon as I remove my trunks and furniture,' she said, 'you can come in, not before.' In a few minutes the military appeared, and the lady, the negroes and the cart load of valuables, were all safely conveyed to the Arsenal."



#### BURNING OF THE COLORED ORPHAN ASYLUM.

Our attention was early called to this outrage by a number of letters from the relatives and friends of the children, anxiously inquiring as to the whereabouts of the little ones. It is well known that as soon as the Bull's Head Hotel had been attacked by the mob, their next destination was the Colored Orphan Asylum, on Fifth Avenue, near Forty-third street. The crowd had swelled to an immense number at this locality, and went professionally to work in order to destroy the building, and, at the same time, to make appropriation of any thing of value by which they might aggrandize themselves. About four hundred entered the house at the time, and immediately proceeded to pitch out beds, chairs, tables, and every species of furniture, which were eagerly seized by the crowd below, and carried off. When all was taken, the house was then set on fire, and shared the fate of the others.

While the rioters were clamoring for admittance at the front door, the Matron and Superintendent were quietly and rapidly conducting the children out the back yard, down to the police station.

They remained there until Thursday, (the burning of the Asylum occurred on Monday, July 13th, when they were all removed in safety to Blackwell's Island, where they still remain.

There were 230 children between the ages of 4 and 12 years in the home at the time of the riot.

The Asylum was located on the Fifth Avenue, between 43d and 44th streets. The main building was nearly 200 feet in length, three stories and light basement in height, with an hospital 100 feet long, three stories high, connected with the main building, by a covered way. Several work shops were attached, and the residence of the Superintendent, Mr. Wm. Davis, was next door. The buildings were of brick and were substantial and commodious structures. A number of fine shade trees and flowering shrubs adorned the ample play grounds and front court yard, and a well built fence surrounded the whole.

The main buildings were burned. The trees girdled by cutting with axes ; the shrubs uprooted, and the fence carried away. All was destroyed except the residence of Mr. Davis, which was sacked.

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#### AN ESCAPE.

Mr. H., a man about thirty years of age, was driven from his house on Grand street. On Monday, July 13th, he was taken ill at the store where he works, and was going home when the rioters fell upon him and hit him with sticks and stones, injuring him badly, but he reached his home, with the assurance of the mob that they would kill him. In the afternoon, about four o'clock, they came back to execute their threat. They broke in the door, smashed the windows, and swore they would burn the house over his head. He slipped out of the way, and remained under a neighbor's roof over night. He afterwards reached the station-house in safety.

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We found a number of instances like the following.

#### A LANDLORD THREATENED.

Mrs. T., from Third street (her daughter and grand-daughter, almost white, are with her), said that her landlord had been threatened with the halter because he hired his houses to colored people. She and her husband and children were compelled to leave their residence.

#### A TIMID LANDLORD.

A landlord on 52d street threatened to turn a woman and her two infants into the street if she did not leave the premises. She could not find a place to move, and as a last resort went to the station-house on Forty-seventh street.

#### A WIDOW.

Mrs. R., a widow, had to run for her life—a house in the same yard being on fire. She lost every article of property save the clothes upon her person.

## AN OLD LADY.

Mrs. W., an old lady from Cannon street, says that she, her husband, and ten or a dozen others were concealed in a white neighbor's house for two days. This white family not only had the heroism to protect these poor people, but the humanity to feed them, and the discretion at the proper time to get a police force to escort them to the station-house. Their benefactors are Irish Catholics.

## ANOTHER.

An old lady of 60 said she had to run for her life from her home in the Eighteenth ward. She was followed by the mob, who pursued her with yells and curses and dangerous missiles. She was slightly wounded.

## A CRIPPLE.

A woman who was crippled at the riot in Brooklyn last Summer was driven from her residence in Elizabeth street by a band of rowdy boys, who broke the windows of her house and threatened to use the torch. She is the mother of two children who are with her.

## ATTEMPT TO BURN THE RESIDENCES.

A woman with an infant in her arms fled from the Archway on Sullivan street. She states that not less than one hundred colored people fled from that neighborhood. The Arch had been set on fire three times by the mob. Even the white families in the vicinity moved their furniture, anticipating a fearful conflagration.

## WHITE WOMEN.

Some four or five white women, wives of colored men applied for relief. In every instance they had been severely dealt with by the mob. One Irish woman, Mrs. C. was so persecuted and shunned by every one, that when she called for aid, she was nearly insane.

## INSANITY.

Several cases of insanity among the colored people appear, as directly traceable to the riots.

## COLORED FAMILIES MOVING.

A number of poor colored families in various parts of the city collected their scanty supplies of furniture on carts and moved from their homes the 15th. They had to work among the sneers, and threats, and cruel assaults of the rioters, and to watch for opportunities to make their escape when the rioters were out of sight.

## MRS. SIMMONS.

Another interesting case is that of a Mrs. Simmons, who resided at 147 East Twenty-eighth street, where she had a comfortable abode.

The rioters attacked her house, with several others near by, and drove her with her two children off without giving them time to save any article of clothing or other goods. She lost everything.

This woman has a son—a sergeant in the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts regiment—from whom she has just received information to the effect that during the last battle in which that regiment was engaged at Charleston, and while charging the batteries on Morris Island, he was taken prisoner. His reputation for skill and bravery is very high.

By referring to the first twelve incidents, it will be seen that among the killed are men, women and children—White, Colored and Indian—from the tender babe of three days old, up to the venerable man of three score years and three. The two young men, Abraham Franklin and William Henry Nichols, were members of Christ's body—the Church; both were siezed and murdered while striving to comfort and protect their mothers. Joseph Reed was a Sabbath School boy, aged seven years. Augustus Stuart was a Christian man, and *insane* at the time he was killed, and as if to show that it was not the timidity of the blacks, that encouraged the rioters, James Costello was killed for having defended himself with a pistol. And all were slain, either while in the peaceful pursuit of their honest, though humble vocations, providing for their families, or while endeavoring to escape from the hands of their destroyers.

Furniture and clothing have been provided for all of these families, and everything in our power done to make them comfortable.

That an unprovoked persecution, when occurring in the midst of a justice-loving and right-minded community, always results to the final advantage of the people abused, is remarkably illustrated in the fact, that since the riots the demand for colored servants has increased ten-fold. Families of the highest social position, both in the city and country, have applied for servants in vain

In looking over the list of occupations on pages 10 and 11, it will be seen that of the women, there are 3,122 who obtain their living by going out to day's-work, and 787 servants hired by the month, a proportion of nearly 6 to 1; while of the men there are 1,823 day-laborers to 609 workers by the month, a difference of 3 to 1. The largely increased demand for servants by the month

may change this, but the habits of a people cannot be thrown off in a moment.

It has been said by their enemies, that the colored people of the North are idle and dissolute ; some few cases of the latter we did find, but with more than ninety-five out of every hundred, a prompt response to the inquiry as to "what was their occupation?" was always given as above stated. As a rule they were evidently hard working, honest, humble people, though many, in both education and respectability, compare favorably with any of our citizens.

The great good, which the colored people feel has already been accomplished by the Committee, in the opening of this office and the bringing together of so many different religious denominations, trades, occupations, stations in life and nativities, in friendly and harmonious action, has caused a number of their leading men to ask, whether it might not be to the advantage and lasting benefit of the colored people in New York city to have this mission continued permanently among them.

They say that they have been made acquainted with the condition and wants of their people by observation of the doings here, and have seen what opportunities and means there are for improving their condition, far beyond their previous conception.

Understanding that the present committee, on the conclusion of its labors will be disbanded, the idea has suggested itself, whether a committee could not be found who would place this friendly intercourse on a permanent foundation, and carry on the work as above suggested.

Having had charge of nearly 10,000 refugee slaves in North Carolina, within the past year, I cannot but remark the difference between them and the free colored people, who have these last few weeks come under my notice.

The free colored people, are very much the superiors of their southern brethren, in education, cultivated intelligence, refinement, and in a quick and independent way of maintaining and asserting their rights. While in kindness towards each other—patience under trial and affliction—cheerfulness, willingness to labor, and an entire absence of every thing like revenge, or a cherishing of ill will towards those who have injured them, both those of the North and the South are alike remarkable.

In physical strength and vigor of body, I think the Southern refugees are their superior.

Several applications for relief and claims for damages, were made by those who had previously resided in Canada and the British West Indies, and I have observed with some interest, that all such persons have had a more clear, straightforward, unembarrassed, yet equally respectful way of presenting their claims. Whether this comes from habits formed, by living in a country where the black man is more respected than with us, I am unable to say.

I cannot close without calling attention to the generous and kind way in which the New York press has aided in this noble work. Although we have had lengthy notices in the editorial columns of their widely distributed newspapers, we have not had one unkind criticism and but few bills, for all their valuable services rendered.

Grateful to a kind, heavenly Father for the privilege of having been permitted to assist in alleviating the sufferings of these much-abused, persecuted, and greatly misunderstood people, and for the harmony, good order and success which has attended this mission, now brought to a close,

I am, Gentlemen,

Ever faithfully, yours,

VINCENT COLYER,

Secretary.

## BROOKLYN.

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On the Monday succeeding the riot, we visited Weeksville, a settlement of colored people, situated some three miles from the ferries, where we found a large number of refugees from the city of New York, and many that had been driven out from their homes in Brooklyn, the inhabitants having furnished them such shelter as they were able, with their limited means and small facilities for accommodating several hundred strangers thrown upon them. We found not only Weeksville, but Carsville, New Brooklyn, and the whole vicinity extending to Flatbush and Flatlands, had more or less refugees scattered in the woods and in such places as they could find safety and shelter. All being thrown out of employment and the means of support, your committee immediately made arrangements for furnishing them daily supplies of food. With the assistance of Mr. Edgar McMullen, who had for a few days previous been assisting them, we had food (as we think prudently and judiciously) distributed daily from July 20th, to August 14th. The amount so given out in Bread, Hams, Flour, Rice, Sugar, and Tea, and in some few cases of great need small sums of money, amounted to eight hundred and fifty 27-100 Dollars (\$850 27).

Your committee found so many cases of distress in the city, arising from injuries received during the riot, from losses, and from want of employment, that we found it necessary to have some place where they could apply for relief. We engaged with the approval of your committee, Rev. Henry Belden, to dispense our charities. He opened the rooms of the Poor Association and engaged four colored Ministers of Brooklyn, to assist in visiting the families of those applying for assistance.

The number of applicants relieved were 752, whose families numbered 2,250; amount donated them, sixteen hundred and ninety dollars (\$1,690).

We gave out in small sums at various times, thirty-nine 50-100 dollars (\$39.50) making the whole amount disbursed in Brooklyn, twenty-five hundred and seventy-nine 80-100 Dollars, (\$2,579) which leaves in our hands for special cases that may arise, seventy-five 47-100 Dollars (\$75.47). Having received from Jonathan Sturges, Treasurer, \$2,655 35-100.

The majority of the colored people are now at work at their accustomed places of business, excepting those employed in the Tobacco Factories, of whom there are about two hundred. Their employers are afraid, as yet, to set them to work.

We have pleasure in assuring you that your benefactions have afforded timely relief and alleviated very much distress. In all cases the sums given (however small they may have been) were gratefully received and in many cases even with apologies for being under the necessity of asking assistance. We have heard no harsh or unkind expressions or threats towards their persecutors.

This substantial expression of good feeling towards them, on the part of our community, has encouraged them and made them feel that they still had friends among us who would stand by and protect them.

Respectfully yours,

WM. W. WICKES,  
R. P. BUCK,

*Committee.*

BROOKLYN, Sept. 11th, 1863.



## Report of the Treasurer.

<b>Dr.</b>	<b>Cr.</b>
To cash paid by order of the Executive Committee for disbursements at the Central office . . . \$21,875 00	By contributions from all sources to date . . . . . \$41,086 08
To Joseph B. Collins, through the Society for Improving the condition of the Poor, . . . . . 1,500 00	
To Charles E. Beebe for sufferers near Bergen, N. J. . . . . 250 00	
To R. P. Buck for distribution in Brooklyn . . . . . 500 00	
To W. W. Wickes for distribution in Brooklyn . . . . . 2,155 35	
To Rev. Samuel D. Denison to be distributed among the sufferers on Blackwell's Island 250 00 Less returned . . . . . 25 00 224 00	
To Miss Anna H. Shotwell, Sec'y of the Colored Orphan Asylum, for relief of the orphans . . . . . 1,000 00	
To Thomas C. Doremus, distributed by him . . . . . 54 05	
To Mr. Reid, distributed by him . . . . . 60 60	
To Albro Lyons, secured by mortgage on his claim on the city . . . . . 500 00	
To Destitute Sufferers previous to the opening of the depot in 4th street . . . . . 37 00	
To Rev. Henry Highland Garnett, donation . . . . . 25 00	
To Wm. S. Dorr, bill printing . . . . . 24 00	
To Express charges on boxes of clothing . . . . . 1 50	
To James Weed, Treas. being amount distributed by him from contribution of the Hedding M. E. Church . . . . . 7 00	
To advertising Subscription List in N. Y. Evening Post . . . . . 2 76	
To advertising Subscription List in N. Y. Journal of Commerce, 26 00 Less donation to Fund . . . . . 13 00 13 00	
To advertising Subscription List in N. Y. Times . . . . . 2 60 Less donation to Fund . . . . . 21 30 21 30	
To V. Colyer, for special distribution . . . . . 102 00	
Balance . . . . . 12,733 52	
<u>* \$41,086 08</u>	<u>\$41,086 08</u>

\* \$307 having been received since the amount stated on first page of Report was printed.

JONATHAN STURGES,

*Treasurer.*

NEW YORK, Sept. 25, 1863.

## Acknowledgment from the Colored People.

On Saturday, August 22d, a number of the leading colored clergymen and laymen assembled together, and, unexpectedly to the committee, presented them with the following address, elaborately engrossed on parchment and tastefully framed—the engrossing being the work of Mr. Patrick Reason, one of their own people :

### AN ADDRESS

TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF MERCHANTS FOR THE RELIEF OF  
COLORED PEOPLE.

J. D. McKENZIE, Chairman.

EDWARD CROMWELL,

GEO. C. COLLINS,

J. S. SCHULTZ,

A. R. WETMORE,

JONA. STURGES, Treas.

J. B. COLLINS.

PRESENTED BY

COLORED MINISTERS AND LAYMEN.

NEW YORK, Aug. 22, 1863.

GENTLEMEN :—We have learned that you have decided this day to bring to a close the general distribution of the funds so liberally contributed by the merchants of New York and others for the relief of the colored sufferers of the late riots, which have recently disgraced our city.

We cannot in justice to our feelings permit your benevolent labors to terminate, even partially, without offering some expression of our sincere gratitude to the Universal Father for inspiring your hearts with that spirit of kindness of which we have been the recipients during the severe trials and persecutions through which we have passed.

When in the pursuit of our peaceful and humble occupations we had fallen among thieves, who stripped us of our raiment and had wounded us, leaving many of us half dead, you had compassion on us. You bound up our wounds and poured in the oil and wine of

Christian kindness, and took care of us. You hastened to express your sympathy for those whose fathers, husbands, sons and brothers had been tortured and murdered. You also comforted the aching hearts of our widowed sisters and soothed the sorrows of orphan children.

We were hungry and you fed us. We were thirsty and you gave us drink. We were made as strangers in our own homes and you kindly took us in. We were naked and you clothed us. We were sick and you visited us. We were in prison and you came unto us.

Gentlemen, this generation of our people will not, cannot forget the dreadful scenes to which we allude, nor will they forget the noble and spontaneous exhibition of charity which they excited. The former will be referred to as one of the dark chapters of our history in the Empire State, and the latter will be remembered as a bright and glorious page in the records of the past.

In the light of public opinion we feel ourselves to be among the least in this our native land, and we therefore earnestly pray that in the last great day the King may say to you and to all who have befriended us, "Inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these my brethren you have done it unto me; come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

But as great as have been the benefit that we have received from your friendly and unlooked for charity, they yet form but the smaller portion of the ground of our gratitude and pleasure. We have learned by your treatment of us in these days of our mental and physical affliction, that you cherished for us a kindly and humane feeling of which we had no knowledge. You did not hesitate to come forward to our relief amid the threatened destruction of your own lives and property. You obeyed the noblest dictates of the human heart, and by your generous moral courage you rolled back the tide of violence that had well nigh swept us away.

This ever memorable and magnanimous exhibition of heroism has had the effect to enlarge in our bosoms the sentiment of undying regard and esteem for you and yours. In time of war or peace, in prosperity or in adversity, you and our great State and our beloved country may count us among your faithful friends, and the proffer of our labors and our lives shall be our pleasure and our pride.

If in your temporary labors of Christian philanthropy, you have

been induced to look forward to our future destiny in this our native land, and to ask what is the best thing we can do for the colored people? This is our answer. Protect us in our endeavors to obtain an honest living. Suffer no one to hinder us in any department of well directed industry, give us a fair and open field and let us work out our own destiny, and we ask no more.

We cannot conclude without expressing our gratification at the manner in which the arduous and perplexing duties of your office have been conducted; we shall never forget the Christian and gentlemanly bearing of your esteemed Secretary, Mr. VINCENT COLYER, who on all occasions impressed even the humblest with the belief that he knew and felt that he was dealing with a crushed and heart-broken people.

We also acknowledge the uniform kindness and courtesy that has characterized the conduct of all the gentlemen in the office in the discharge of their duties.

We desire likewise to acknowledge the valuable services contributed by the gentlemen of the legal profession, who have daily been in attendance at the office to make out the claims of the sufferers *free of charge*. In the name of the people we return thanks to all.

In conclusion, permit us to assure you that we will never cease to pray to God for your prosperity, and that of every donor to the Relief Fund. Also for the permanent peace of our country, based upon liberty, and the enjoyment of man's inalienable rights, for the preservation of the American Union, and for the reign of that righteousness in the hearts of the people, that saves from reproach and exalteth the nation. Signed,

REV. H. H. GARNET,  
 " CHAS. B. RAY,  
 " CLINTON LEONARD,  
 " JOHN CARY,  
 " HENRY M. WILSON,  
 " SAMPSON TALBUT,  
 " RICHARD WILSON,  
 " ISAAC COLMAN,  
 " JOHN T. RAYMOND,

MR. JOHN PETERSON,  
 " CHAS. L. REASON,  
 " PETER S. PORTER,  
 " STEPHEN N. GEAR,  
 " HY. MONTGOMERY,  
 " JOHN L. HUDSON,  
 " AARON F. POTTER,  
 " T. S. W. TITUS,  
 " WM C. H. CURTIS,

and many others.

To this Address, the chairman of the committee responded.

By a vote of the Executive Committee, Mr. McKenzie was requested to furnish a copy of his remarks for publication, which are herewith appended.

## REPLY OF THE CHAIRMAN,

MR. J. D. MCKENZIE.

“ Although entirely unprepared, it becomes my duty as chairman of the Executive Committee appointed by the merchants of New York for the relief of the colored people, who suffered by the recent mob to respond to the address ; which you have this morning presented to us on behalf of your people.

It is unnecessary for me to go over the origin of the movement, or the manner in which it has been conducted ; these things you know. But I would say that to many of our number it has been a new and profitable experience, one which we can never forget as our memory goes back to those dark hours when your kindred fled in terror and dismay from before those who murdered and pillaged your homes, men who had in the majority of cases come from other lands, who had received protection under our laws both in their persons and property, who from dependence and poverty had become independent in their circumstances, with an abundance for themselves and their families, with every right both civil and political enjoyed by the most favored citizen, and who sought to destroy a race cast upon our care and protection by the Great God who made of one blood all the nations of men to dwell upon the face of the earth. Our whole natures revolted instantly at so great and cruel wrong. For this we claim no credit, it was only the common instinct of humanity when we heard the imploring wail of an injured and dependent race ringing in our ears imploring for mercy—aye and they shall have it and justice also, to this the merchants of New York are fully and completely pledged by their words and their acts—this is what every man who treads this soil should in time to come receive not as a favor, but a right.

Some of us have been told that if we stood forth in your behalf our stores and our houses would be burned, and our lives taken ; if this must be the penalty let it come, with God's help we will build other stores and make new homes, and if life must be yielded and we die

for a principle of justice and truth then shall our death be more glorious than our life.

We hope that the colored people in time to come from the experience of the past few weeks will trust the white man as their friend. Their condition and their future is a problem to us of momentous importance—it engages our thoughts I am well convinced far more than it possibly can your own ; it is the great question of the age. Go where we may the black man does not escape us, when we sit at our tables surrounded by our families—although you are not personally present in bodily shape still you are there—when we retire to our chambers you follow us—and even in the sanctuary of the most High God the question will come without bidding to every heart, what shall be done with the negro. Human wisdom is utterly unable to solve the proposition ; God in his providence alone can do it. For myself I had hoped that your race would have been gradually emancipated, first being prepared for the enjoyment of liberty and the discharge of the duties and obligations attendant thereon ; but God who controls all events according as he sees fit, in His own infinite wisdom seems to our present view to order otherwise and it is our duty to accept His will as right.

Twice in the world's history has He signally interposed in behalf of the enslaved. Once in generations long gone by with the years before the flood when his people Israel were under the yoke of the Egyptians—He brought them forth with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm—He told that haughty nation these words, "Let my people go free." This they refused, until finally there was no home among the Egyptians in which on that eventful night there were not cries and lamentations over the dead body of the first born son.

Three years ago we little thought that we should for a like cause learn over again the same lesson. There is hardly a family circle at the North and almost certainly there is not one at the South, where the mother does not mourn over her dead boy or where the wife has not been made a widow, and all this has come to us because your people dwelt among us—the innocent cause of untold woes. We know full well that you and yours are not responsible for these calamities. It seems to me that disguise it as we may Slavery in these United States is doomed. It may not end this year nor the next, but end it will and that speedily ; a voice rings through the air clearer and louder than the loudest thunders : "Let the oppressed go free."

And now in view of all these things, of your approaching state, suffer me through you to speak a few words of counsel and advice to

your race. The path before you is full of difficulty and dangers ; when you come into the full possession of liberty remember that true liberty is not licentiousness, it is obedience to law, it is a cheerful compliance with the obligations imposed by society for the good of the whole, it is rendering to every man his due.

You will go forth without any claims upon society beyond those conceded to every man—you will meet at the outset a haughty, powerful and energetic race—a race which to-day rules and controls all others. Can you stand before the Anglo Saxon and Celtic tribes? The ordeal for you is a fearful one.

Your only hope can be in fearing and obeying God's law, in industry, virtue and education, these things only can save your people ; otherwise you will melt away, when cast upon your own resources, faster than the snow in summer, or the dew which glistens for a little while on the flowers of the morning : it cannot in the nature of the case be otherwise.

But I must conclude. The labor in which we have been engaged as a committee of the Merchants of New York, has been to us not only pleasant, but also profitable ; we have had nothing to gain but your good. We were impelled to this work by the remembrance of how much we have ourselves received, how much God has blessed and prospered us in this goodly land, unworthy though we were of these blessings ; but more than all we were constrained to do these things because of God's greatest gift to man, Jesus Christ his only Son who gave himself to redeem a lost and guilty world—as children of one Common Father who makes his sun to shine alike on every tribe of man. The words of John the beloved Apostle comes to my mind when he describes the day of all days in those magnificent words, "After this, I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues stood before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands, and they sung a new song." Then shall the nations see eye to eye—there shall all distinctions end, there shall be but one language, and one harmony when earth's ransomed ones shall be all safely gathered in that better land."

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Le G. B. Cannon, Burlington, Vermont . . . . .	100 00	Wm. Brand & Co. . . . .	25 00
R. Cornell White . . . . .	100 00	Cash . . . . .	25 00
Morgan Dix . . . . .	25 00	John Patterson . . . . .	10 00
Robt. I. Livingston, New Brun- swick, N. J. . . . .	100 00	Booth & Edgar . . . . .	200 00
M. L. . . . .	2 00	D. G. Bacon . . . . .	200 00
Rev. A. C. Cox . . . . .	10 00	A Mite . . . . .	10 00
Emily C. Macy . . . . .	20 00	F. M. & W. A. Shepard . . . . .	25 00
Geo. W. Mills, (colored) . . . . .	10 00	Mrs. Geo. McKenzie . . . . .	20 00
C. L. Spencer . . . . .	300 00	Naylor & Co. . . . .	200 00
J. Boorman, Johnston & Co. . . . .	200 00	W. & A. . . . .	25 00
Lawrence, Griggs & Kingsbury, . . . . .	100 00	R. R. Fox . . . . .	100 00
Dike Brothers . . . . .	50 00	Chas. E. Hill . . . . .	100 00
Reynolds & Cushman . . . . .	50 00	C. A. Hedges, East Hampton . . . . .	100 00
Miss J. N. Cushman . . . . .	10 00	Seth B. Hunt, Bennington, Vt., . . . . .	100 00
Miss S. S. Cushman . . . . .	10 00	John R. Ford, Newport, R. I. . . . .	100 00
Kemp, Day & Co. . . . .	50 00	O. B. . . . .	50 00
Cash . . . . .	40 00	E. P. Rodgers, Pastor South Dutch Church . . . . .	25 00
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Rowland Johnson . . . . .	25 00	A Sewing Girl . . . . .	3 00
Weston & Gray . . . . .	500 00	W. H. J., Brooklyn . . . . .	2 00
Cash . . . . .	6 00	Robert Carnley . . . . .	50 00
Josiah Lawrence . . . . .	100 00	A. B. Sands & Co. . . . .	50 00
Thos. Hitchcock . . . . .	100 00	Wm. Allen Butler . . . . .	50 00
		O. Rosito . . . . .	30 00
	\$24,441 56		\$26,987 56

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Cash.....	5 00	J. W. Clowes.....	10 00
M. K. Jesup & Co.....	50 00	Caldwell & Morris.....	50 00
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Theodore Hyatt.....	25 00	F. W. Worth.....	50 00
Tompkins Westervelt.....	25 00	E. R. Ware.....	50 00
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