

Transcription

CELEBRATION.

The celebration of which we spoke last week came off on the first day of January.

The people assembled at the Butler School House at 11 o'clock A. M., where they were met by the following Societies, viz:

Rising Sons, Morning Stars, Good Samaritans, Sons of Bethel, Sons of Abraham and Sons of Zion, which had previously met at the Baptist Church formed and marched after a Band of field music to the School House.

There were not less than four thousand persons present in and about the building. The people were seated and after a little delay that was caused by a change of the programme for the day which was made necessary by the bad weather. The Speakers were introduced as follows:

Maj. Gen. Miles was introduced, he declined making a speech, but made some remarks which were very appropriate and timely. The General was received with much enthusiasm by the audience, his remarks were of a nature both to please and benefit the people, and the audience gave evidence of their appreciation by their hearty cheers and continued applause.

Next was introduced Dr. Vogel of Maj. Gen. Miles Staff who delivered a very eloquent address. He spoke of the importance of the day. The price these privileges had cost. The effort that had been made to oppress the colored man. He directed them how to accomplish future, greatness, and in a very powerful eloquent and touching manner, he told them they were free and urged them to be masters of themselves and especially masters of their virtue. His address was very able and was highly appreciated, we have applied to him for manuscript and hope to obtain it for publication in THE TRUE SOUTHERNER.

Dr. Bayne of Norfolk was introduced and delivered a very able address. It was much of it logical; he deeply interested the audience and gave great satisfaction.

D. B. White was introduced and delivered a short address.

Captain Wilder was introduced and delivered a very neat and timely address, that greatly encouraged the colored people, had we plenty of such men to encourage this people we might look for great results in a short time, his heart is with the oppressed African.

Rev. W. Davis, Rev. Wm. Thornton and Rev. John Dungy also made an address that were able, well timed and highly appreciated. The speakers and people were very enthusiastic and seemed to understand that the event they celebrated was one of the most momentous of any that have ever occurred since the commencement of time.

The fine Brass Band from Fort Monroe was in attendance gave us of their very best music – played between each address, at the commencement and close of the exercises, a vote of thanks was given [sic] for the Speakers, for the Band and the field music. The Societies then formed in the Street in front of the School House, and accompanied by the field music and marched to Hampton, through and about the town and returned to the Hospital. This march was one of the most interesting we ever saw, old men and women with their gray heads, men and women in the prime of life, boys and girls, mules, horses, wagons and carts all in their order joined the procession. The light step of the old, the dignified and manly manner in which middle aged and young marched, the manner in which the boys and girls enjoyed themselves flying about the column in front and rear constantly leaping and dancing to the well played music gave unmistakable evidence that all the people

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appreciated object of the celebration, and knew how to appreciate the great blessing of freedom they are now permitted to enjoy. We felt that the thanks they expressed for their freedom was pleasing to the God that brought them out of the land of Egypt.

A very fine dinner had been prepared at the Hospital for the music and Speakers where we had the honor of assembling with the dignitaries and satisfying a peculiar desire of our natures which we believe at that time in the day was very common with the crowd.

The dinner was one that would have done credit to a celebration in any Northern city. Turkeys, chickens and wild ducks prepared in the best and most stylish manners, cold meats in great variety and the best oysters the *world* can produce, cakes richly frosted and everything else in proportion. – The celebration passed off very quietly and orderly, no rowdyism was seen, neither drinking or fighting, not a drunken or quarrelsome man disgraced the day as is so common on occasion of this kind among white people. The colored people did themselves great credit and again gave evidence to the fact that they are industrious, thrifty and orderly.

President Lincoln who under God was the Saviour of his country, and whose Immortal Proclamation which set at liberty four millions of human chattles, and restored them to manhood will ever be held in grateful remembrance by this people, and to do honor to these causes of their liberty, the first day of January will be set apart until time shall be no more; when this people will be gathered to Abraham's bosom to join the triumphant throng in songs of praise to the God that brought them out of bondage forever and ever.

We learn just before going to press that the colored children had their celebration in the evening at the Baptist Church; the children spoke pieces and their efforts in this new undertaking was the most complete success. There was some very fine addresses delivered to the children and we are informed that the evening exercises were quite equal to those of the day. On the whole the first day of January was a great day in Hampton.

How different these are from the old times when the first of January was a day of hiring and selling the flesh, blood and bones of these people, surely God has been here in power, He has driven the plow-share of his anger deep, and though it has turned up blood, it has brought the jewel of freedom to four million slaves.

Correspondence.
Grand Celebration in Norfolk.
ON NEW YEARS DAY.
THE DAY.

This morning came with thick mist and light rain and every indication visible spoke of bad weather; notwithstanding, the Marshall and committee mounted at an early hour and proceeded to arrange for the turn out.

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FLAG PRESENTATION.

At 9 o'clock [sic] the mist had somewhat disappeared and a large crowd had gathered in front of the Bute st. A. M. E. Church where the Sisters of Love had convened to present the UNION SOUTH a beautiful silk American Flag. Rev. J. M. Brown made the presentation speech, and Rev. Ewart W. Williams responded.

THE PROCESSION.

Quarter before ten the military escort consisting of two companies of that battle-tryed Regt., 29th New York with their regimental Band appeared on the ground corner of Bute & Brewer sts., where the procession was formed. Soon the various societies and associations came up and halted in front of the Bute st. A. M. E. Church.

ORATION.

A large crowd numbering at least three thousand had gathered in front of the Church to hear the eloquent and patriotic address – The procession halted in front of the stand each society and association brought their banners to the front and rear of the Marshals when the Rev. Ewd W. Williams invoked the blessing of God in a short and very appropriate prayer.

READING THE PROCLAMATION.

The Rev. Lewis Tucker read the Immortal Emancipation Proclamation. Rev Thomas Hensen was then introduced by Mr. Joseph T. Wilson, and proceeded to deliver the Oration. Mr. Hensen portayed [sic] the scheme of the Southern Statesmen and leaders to perpetuate slavery in which they were foiled, he discussed and asserted the rights of the colored man, and of all men irrespective of color, of the guarantees of the Constitution and of the Proclamation of Freedom, showing the delight of the Government in its noble defenders, and portrayed the character, life and death of our Martyred President, and after speaking one hour and a half closed his remarks by urging upon all their duty to God.

The Rev. J. M. Brown followed in a neat and appropriate address in which he showed the meanness of the City Press in endeavoring to inflame the public mind against the colored man and his household by grossly inserting false rumors of insurrection. The Rev. Edward W. Williams closed the ceremonies by urging the unity of action in this great strife of political rights.

The Band discoursed sweet and patriotic music while the many banners were in the breeze, and thousands shouted three cheers for General Butler. The procession was re-formed soon as the Band partook of a sumptuous dinner prepared by the ladies in the basement of the church and escorted Portsmouth delegation to the boat and returned to the church at five o'clock and dismissed the whole proceeding.

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