

nary, ministers, merchants, and leading men of the place generally; as you may judge when I repeat the names of Dale, Sabine, Stetson, Muzzy, Wakefield, Bartlett, Everett, Small, Shepard, Talcott, Crosby, Wingate, Wheelright, Broom, Mills, etc., etc.

"In this city the meeting to organize is to be held next Monday night, and the active men in the movement are such as ex-Governor Washburne, Mayor McLelland, Phineas Barnes, John Neal, Messrs. Talbot, Blanchard, and others of the radical school, and the *élite* if not the whole of the 'reverend clergy.'

"The effectiveness of this visit of Messrs. Garrison and McKim, which has been striking, is of easy explanation. It is due to the following circumstances:

"*First.* These gentlemen came, not in the name of a mere local association, like that of Boston or New York, but in the name and the behalf of the *American Freedmen's Aid Association*. They represented a *bona fide* national organization, having scope and facilities adequate to the great national work to be accomplished. They, by this token, brought with them the assurance that the people here who take hold of this matter are to have the co-operation of the whole country.

"*Second.* The commission, instead of sending an agent to introduce it and set forth its claims, *came itself*—so to speak. That is, it came in the persons of its second officer and one of its department secretaries. In important movements like this, people of responsibility prefer to see responsible parties; they like—in first interviews at least—to deal with principals. In this case, as it appears, the president of the commission could not come; but the next officer in rank, duly accompanied, came in his place. That was right; and the good effect was obvious. Had Bishop Simpson come himself, he would have been warmly welcomed, not only by old friends, but by others newly made for him by the part he is now taking. But, since this was impossible, he did the next best thing, in sending so good a substitute. And this brings me to say that,

"*Third.* The effectiveness of this visit was due largely to the fact that William Lloyd Garrison was one of the parties that made it. Mr. Garrison's long and consistent career in favor of impartial liberty has given him a prestige and power which stand him and the cause in good stead in this movement.

"*Fourth.* These gentlemen presented the cause of the freedmen in a different way from any that we have ever heard speak in its advocacy. They base their claims not on charity, but on justice; not on a halting expediency, but on high state necessity. They represent the success of their movement as a *sine qua non* of the social, civil, and industrial reorganization of the Southern States. They press it as a question affecting alike the freedom and happiness of the blacks, and the interest, honor, and the very life of the nation; and they demand that the people shall at once organize, all over the country, for an immediate practical solution of this question. They have done a good work here; and what has been done here, in this city and in Bangor, should be done in all the populous centers of the country.

"Bishop Simpson and his board of managers should not confide this great work *wholly* to the care of salaried canvassers. They should take the field themselves, as did Dr. Bellows, and George H. Stuart, of the Sanitary and Christian Commissions; and, by their personal presence and their official position, 'compel' the men of influence of the country to 'come in' to this movement.

"Were it in the power of Mr. McKim and Mr. Garrison—the one with his facts, and the other with his fame—to spend six weeks, instead of six days, in Maine, this state, at the end of that time, would be organized for the black man and impartial freedom against all contingencies."

THE AMERICAN FREEDMEN'S AID COMMISSION.

This new National Association, which comprises in its broad embrace all previously existing state, county, and town Freedmen's Associations, and of the formation of which we have had occasion to speak at length, has been duly inaugurated, and has commenced its operations under favorable auspices.

The ceremonies of its inauguration took place in the Academy of Music, in the city of Philadelphia, on the evening of the 11th ultimo. That spacious building, capable of seating 4,000 people, was crowded with a brilliant audience, and was addressed by leading and representative men of the Commission and of the country. The spirit of the occasion, the tenor of the speeches, and the broad and truly catholic genius of the association, will all be indicated at once by the mention of the names of the gentlemen who took part in the proceedings. They were:

The Right Rev. Bishop McIlvaine, one of the heads of the Protestant Episcopal Church; Bishop Matthew Simpson, president of the Commission, and one of the heads of the Methodist Episcopal Church; Dr. Bellows, president of the Sanitary Commission, and one of the heads of the Unitarian Church; George H. Stuart, Esq. (by letter), head of the Christian Commission, and a pillar of the Presbyterian Church; Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard (by letter), the head of the Freedmen's Bureau; Henry Ward Beecher, one of the heads of the Congregational Church; and William Lloyd Garrison, the Nestor of the anti-slavery movement, and the recognized "head and front" of that offending.

On the platform, "assisting" in the services, were Francis George Shaw, president of the New York "National" Freedmen's Association; Judge Bond, of the Baltimore Association; Dr. Clark, secretary of the Pittsburg Association; Rev. J. R. Shipherd, associate secretary of the American Commission; J. M. McKim, corresponding secretary of the Commission's Eastern Department; Dr. James E. Rhoads, corresponding secretary of the Pennsylvania Freedmen's Relief Association; E. W. Clark, George Cabot Ward, John Jay, Ellis Yarnall, and other prominent officials in the freedmen's movement, from different parts of the country.

The speakers demanded for the freedmen protection, education, an interest in the soil, and *all* the immunities, natural and civil, that of right belong to the condition of freedom; and it was noticeable that the most advanced views that were urged on the occasion were those that were responded to with the loudest expressions of enthusiasm.

A movement thus favorably auspicated could hardly fail, when under weigh, to work successfully, as the following account, dated "Portland, Maine, Oct. 28th," will serve to demonstrate:

"The American Freedmen's Aid Commission, lately organized, has been 'trying it on' in this state, and it is found to work favorably. William Lloyd Garrison, first vice-president, and J. M. McKim, corresponding secretary of the Eastern Department, have been here and in Bangor this week, holding public meetings, and conferring with our leading public men in private in regard to the freedmen; and the liveliest interest has been evinced by our citizens in their mission. The public meetings of these gentlemen were held in the large city hall of Bangor, and of this place, and their meetings for conference in the mayor's room and the council-rooms of the two cities respectively.

"At these meetings for conference the whole subject was talked over in a familiar way, and the matter was made to assume—under the statements of Messrs. McKim and Garrison—an aspect of such grave importance and colossal magnitude, demanding, withal, such instant and vigorous action that, both in Bangor and here, it was resolved to form auxiliary associations at once, and to push the movement with energy throughout the state. At Bangor the meeting to organize is called for to-night; and, from the character of the men who have taken hold of it, I am satisfied they will make no child's play of it.

"Among the men who are most active in the movement in that city are the collector of the port, the mayor, members of Congress, professors in the theological semi-