

A LARGE MASS MEETING HELD IN DEPRICATION OF COATESVILLE HORROR AT JOHN WESTEY CHURCH

Capt. Frank Stewart Made Telling Speech—Attorney J. W. Holmes and A. T. Hall Do Effective Work on Resolution Committee.

To express their indignation at the atrocious lynching at Coatesville, Pa., of the Negro Zachariah Taylor, last Sunday, a great mass meeting of colored citizens of Pittsburgh was held at John Wesley A. M. E. Zion church, Arthur street, on Wednesday evening, August 16. Mr. Daniel Washington, presided. The lecture room was crowded. At first the affair threatened to terminate in a farce, as things seemed to have been cut and dried beforehand, and there was an evident lack of understanding on the part of the audience of what the meeting really proposed to accomplish. A committee was appointed to draw up resolutions under the leadership of G. W. Kincaid. Sufficient to say that with such a chairman it brought in a set of weak-kneed apologies for resolutions that so disgusted the audience that they at once rejected them.

Chairman Dan Washington then showed excellent judgment in adding to the committee on resolutions, Attorney J. Welfred Homes and A. T. Hall. Mr. Hall drafted a strong set of resolutions which were unanimously adopted and the object of the meeting was to raise money to send representatives from Pittsburgh and Allegheny county to Governor Tener to present resolutions concerning the lynching. Many heated speeches were made. Rev. Broadax Smith in characteristic vein voiced the sentiment of the occasion. He said in part:

The white people are going to unload the colored people. The time has now come for us to do something to stand up like men, resent wrongs, demand rights. Let one wrong after another go unresented and afterwards no one will be safe from the same punishment, the same diabolical deviltry meted out to the unfortunate victim of the Coatesville affair.

We have had too much mourning and praying. Pray so well and good by keeping your trusty musket near and depend upon it. Quit mourning

and praying for reform but be up and doing.

Mr. Jackson spoke forceful of the crying need of acting now to not so much "resoluting." "Go ahead appoint the men to represent us. Raise the money without delay.

Mr. A. T. Hall made a few remarks to the point.

Attorney Frank R. Stewart made the speech of the evening showing them that all the talk and bickering back and forward was a foolish waste of time. He explained the object of the meeting to provide money to avenge the foul blot on the state of Pennsylvania. His speech was forceful, manly and direct. He held the meeting well in hand and just then took on the predominant thought from which they were prone to stray at intervals. He said secure an able man to look after the defense, put him on the job and collect funds for the same. He modestly declined to act in this capacity himself.

Keep your eye upon the governor in this matter. His interview by one of our leading dailies elicited only milk-warm expression from the governor. His excuse as to "human nature," is disgusting.

It was decided to appoint a committee to prepare for a big mass meeting in which they hope every race loving and true minded citizen of Pittsburgh will participate. Some of the expense was raised in a collection. The meeting is to be held Sunday, August 20, at Bethel A. M. E. church, Wylie avenue, at 3 o'clock p. m. Notices have been sent to all of the Negro churches in Allegheny county and an immense crowd is expected. There will be no more "resoluting," but an earnest attempt will be made to raise cash to send off the committee of three and to decide on the proper course to pursue in order to make sure that the perpetrators of the outrage are not allowed to escape full justice. Governor Tener has been asked for a date at which he will entertain the resolution committee.