

A meeting of the colored citizens of Florence and vicinity was held at the M. E. Church, on Wednesday night, April 24th, to recommend a suitable man to act as one of the three registers of voters to be appointed for this district - The meeting was called to order by James T. Pappier, and O. W. Haring was chosen President, J. B. Goines vice President, and Wm. S. Robinson Secretary - The Chairman stated the object of the meeting in a short address, reminding the assembly that, in this their first act of participation in the politics of the State, it became them to proceed in their deliberations with calmness, moderation and intelligence - After which he announced the meeting ready for business -

On motion a committee of five was appointed to nominate a man to act as register for this district, under the "Reconstruction Bill" - The committee, after a short absence, reported the name of John H. Pappier, and, by a unanimous vote, the latter gentleman was recommended

for said position -

It was moved that a committee of three be appointed to draft resolutions expressing the ~~case~~ ^{sentiments} of the meeting upon the present political situation - The motion was adopted and the committee reported the following

Resolutions -

Whereas, Colored men of the State of Alabama, in common with those of other States, have recently had conceded to them their just rights as citizens of the Commonwealth, and are now called upon to exercise the rights of citizenship; and whereas we feel that a just regard for the opinions of our fellow citizens of every class, as well as a proper respect for ourselves, demands a public declaration of our views and sentiments touching the present political situation, therefore,

Resolved, That we will endeavor to ~~this~~ bring to the consideration of our new duties, a solemn sense of the great responsibilities now resting upon us as emancipated citizens, and that, entertaining kindly

feelings toward all men, regardless of antecedents, we will enter upon the discharge of our new obligations, with a sincere desire to promote peace, ~~and~~ harmony, and union -

Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting that colored men should, by the practice of industry, ~~economy, and the diffusion of knowledge, and economy,~~ together with the diffusion of knowledge, strive for advancement in everything that pertains to a well ordered and dignified life -

Resolved, That we feel indebted to the Republican party for its steadfast adherence to the cause of ~~impartial~~ ~~Justice~~ Equal Rights, and for the liberties which we now enjoy; that to said party we pledge our hearty support so long as it holds to the principles of impartial justice; and that we will stand aloof from all political organizations which do not recognize the fundamental doctrines of the Declaration of Independence -

Resolved that the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Florence Journal -

After addresses by Messrs. Raper, Johnson and others, the meeting adjourned siue die -

Dear Mr. Waring. Pres
Sec

Ed. Wm. H. Smith,
Montgomery,
Ala.



Dear Sir:

The undersigned state with
entire ~~confidence~~ satisfaction, that the
above report of a meeting of the
colored citizens of Florence, is true
and genuine, and we candidly unite
with the meeting in recommending
to you Mr. John H. Rapier for the colored
Register of this District

Very Respectfully
J. C. Fosdy

J. M. Stewart, J. D.
Alexander, N. Rice

Florence, Ala. April 30th 1865

Waring, Deas. M.

Receipts proceedings of a colored
Meeting held at Florence Ala.
on the 29th inst and said Meeting
Nominating and recommending
for appointment as colored
Register of that County Mr
John H. Rapier.

Prussia, Ala.
April 27, 1867

Col. Wm. H. Smith;
Montgomery,
Ala.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please
find proceedings of a meeting
of the colored citizens of this
County, to recommend a man
for Register of voters -
I had the honor to be the
chairman of said meeting, and take
pleasure in saying that the choice
of the ^{col.} people of this County is
the gentleman named in the
minutes; Mr. John H. Rapier -

Yours &
Oscar M. Waring,
Prin. Edm's School

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[page 2]

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Resolved, That we will endeavor to ~~this~~ bring to the consideration of our new duties, a solemn sense of the great responsibilities now resting upon us as enfranchised citizens, and that, entertaining kindly

[page 3]

feelings toward all men, regardless of antecedents, we will enter upon the discharge of our new obligations, with a sincere desire to promote peace, ~~and~~ harmony, and union —

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Resolved, That we feel indebted to the Republican party for its steadfast adherence to the cause of ~~Impartial~~ Justice Equal Rights, and for the liberties which we now enjoy; that to said party we pledge our hearty support so long as it holds to the principles of impartial

justice; and that we will stand
aloof from all political organizations
which do not recognize the funda-
mental doctrines of the Declaration of
Independence —

Resolved That the proceedings of this meeting
be published in the Florence Journal —

After address by Mess. Rapier, Johnson
and others, the meeting adjourned sine die —

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Oscar M. Waring, Pres —
Sec —

Col. Wm. H. Smith,
Montgomery
Ala.

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entire confidence satisfaction, that the
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Very Respectfully —

S. C. Posey

Ja^s. W. Stewart M.D.

Neander H. Rice

[Written sideways at the bottom of the page]

Florence, Ala. April 24th 1864

Waring, Oscar M.

Forwards proceedings of a Colored
Meeting held at Florence Ala
on the 24th inst The said Meeting