

**1852. Rev. James W. C. Pennington Denounce Colonization in Albany Speech** (Aptheker 329-336)

In his annual message to the legislature of January, 1852, Governor Hunt of 'c' - New York proposed that money be appropriated to the American Colonization Society. This drew from the New York State Convention of Colored Citizens, meeting under the chairmanship of the Rev. James W. C. Pennington in Albany's City Hall on January 20, 1852, a vigorous protest as follows:

*First- Because* the appropriation is unconstitutional. The 10th section of the 7th article of the Constitution states, that "the credit of the State shall not in any manner be given or loaned to, or in aid of any individual association or incorporation." The American Colonization Society is an "association" foreign to the State, and unknown to its laws. By granting no matter what sum to that Society, the good faith of the State would be pledged to the cruel and monstrous doctrines on which that Society is founded- that a man has no right to live in the land of his birth.

*Secondly- Because* such an appropriation is entirely unnecessary. Of the colored population of this State, there are not fifty persons, all told, who desire to emigrate to Africa.

We need no State appropriation. Should it ever occur that we should be called upon to leave our native State, having means of our own, we shall not burthen the public fund in our departure any more than we do while remaining home... the road is short to Canada; from whose fertile fields and equal institutions, we might be permitted to witness the prosperity of that State, which, in giving us birth, has entwined in its commonweal every fibre of our being; this would take away half the bitterness of exile, and would leave us the privilege, should peril come to her, of baring the breasts of black men as a shield to whatever blows may be aimed against the heart of the Empire State.

*Thirdly- We* protest against such appropriation, because the American Colonization Society is a gigantic fraud. .. a moulder of, and a profiter by a diseased public opinion, it keeps alive an army of agents who live by plundering us of our good name.

*And lastly- We* protest against this appropriation, because "we remember those that are in bonds as bound with them"; bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh, may evil betide us when the hope of gain, or the fear of oppression, shall compel or persuade us to forsake them to the rayless gloom of perpetual slavery.

*The Liberator*, March 5, 1852.