

HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
WISCONSIN CIVIL RIGHTS LEAGUE,

137 MARTIN STREET,

MILWAUKEE, WIS., November 1st, 1889.

DEAR SIR:

We, the colored citizens of Milwaukee and of the State of Wisconsin, have formed the above named organization for the purpose of securing those rights and privileges which, in this State, are denied us on account of our color. We are being insulted and humiliated in certain hotels, restaurants and other public places, where discrimination is openly practiced against us, while many places exclude us entirely, there being no law on the statute book of Wisconsin to prevent such outrages. During the recent Encampment, Colored Veterans, Comrades of the G. A. R., many of them prominent members of white Posts, but strangers in Milwaukee, after being invited here were refused their meals and wilfully insulted in some of our leading hostelrys, simply because their skins were black.

Only a few years ago, Hon. Fred Douglass could not get a night's lodging in any hotel in the city of Janesville, and had he not met the Hon. ex-Congressman Williams (now of Dakota), who took him to his own home as the honored guest of himself and family, he would have been forced to walk the streets all night.

We have sued a theatrical manager for \$2,500 for forcibly ejecting a colored ticket holder and refusing to allow him to occupy his seat, because he was a negro.

We have retained ex-U. S. District Attorney, Gerry W. Hazelton, as our counsel, and the case will be called during the November term of the Circuit Court.

Why is it that Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and a dozen other States and Territories protect their colored citizens, while Wisconsin does not?

Have people of these States reached a higher moral plane than those of our own?

Calls have been issued by prominent colored men, including Hon. J. M. Langston, T. T. Fortune, W. E. Matthews and others, urging colored men of every State in the Union to meet together and organize State Leagues for the betterment of our condition; these State Leagues to send representatives to the National Convention, which will shortly be held. Therefore we, the colored men of Milwaukee, in meeting assembled, have set apart November 26th, 27th and 28th for a convention of representative colored men of this State to meet at Union Headquarters, 171 Second Street, Milwaukee, for the following purposes:

1st. To frame and secure the passage by the Legislature of a State Civil Rights bill, so that our children and ourselves may benefit thereby.

2nd. To consider the advisability of forming a State League.

3rd. To discuss other matters of importance to the race.

You are cordially invited to be present and participate in this convention, and we feel sure that as a true and loyal Afro-American and lover of the race, you will not fail to attend. Circulars have been sent to all other prominent colored men throughout the State.

Should you intend to come, please send card to Rev. D. P. Brown, Pastor A. M. E. Church, 137 Martin street, and arrangements will be made for your accommodation.

Yours for our race.

S. B. BELL, President Civil Rights League.

S. M. MINOR, Secretary.

REV. D. P. BROWN, Chairman Executive Committee.

W. T. GREEN, Secretary.

J. J. MILES, Treasurer.

L. H. PALMER.

S. A. ROBINSON.

GEO. W. SCOTT, Chairman Reception Committee.