REPORT OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA TO THE N.M. CONFERENCE HELD AT SHA ILSE CITY, N.J. AUG. 15th TO 18th, 1909.

Mr. General Secretary and Members of the NIAGARA MOVEMENT:

The Secretary for the State of Pennsylvania respectfully submits the following report of the work and general conditions as observed in the State of Pennsylvania since the last session of the Conference.

THE JOHN BROWN MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

The principal work committed to the hands of the Secretary for the State of Penna. at our last meeting was the matter of organizing and getting into operation the work of raising a fund for the erection of a monument to the memory of John Brown and the Friends of Freedom. We very much regret to have to report that nothing substantial has been accomplished in this direction during the past year. Our failure to organize the Committee effectively was not such a hinderance as the lack of funds for the printing of Certificates of membership in the JOHN BROWN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION as was suggested and tentatively agreed upon last year. We feel that at least some headway might have been made had we been able to secure and offer these Certificates for distribution. In the absence of these Certificates, we have undertaken to collect no funds as we regarded them as absolutely essential in the prosecution of our plans as outlined. This matter, therefore, is in statu quo.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION

The presidential campaign of 1908 in our State was in some respects unusual. The campaign throughout the country seems to have been waged through newspapers and other printed matter. While there were some speakers there were practically no colored men employed as in the days of yore. Many of our colored editors stolidly maintained a position of independence—often speaking out in no uncertain tones against the party which they have heretofore supported. This attitude was apparently forced upon them by the Republican party and its leaders. This disaffection of the colored voters was materially helped not only by the absence of the colored stump speaker, but the entire absence of any important local Federal office holders who might be pointed to as recipients of such favors as to enable them to thrust themselves or to be put forward as leaders or rallying points for the faithful. Besides all this there seems to be a general impression abroad among colored men that the Republican party has deserted them in its efforts to build up its fortune among the white people of the South. In this section, colored men are no longer ashamed.
or inclined to apologize for admitting my political independence. There was loud and general complaint on account of the nomination of Mr. Taft. After the nomination, this opposition weakened but very little and many of the more than two hundred thousand votes lost to the Republican party in Penna. in the last election can be safely charged to colored men.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

It will be recalled in our last years report, attention was called to the fact that there was a well-defined effort on foot to abrogate the laws forbidding separate schools for colored and white children, though for a generation past Pennsylvania has known no distinction in this respect. Not withstanding the law, however, Philadelphia has several distinctively colored schools. These are presided over by colored teachers and no protest against them was ever made as they are in colored settlements. There were other schools, however, where a large majority of the children in attendance are colored but where all the teachers were white.

This condition produce some whispered complaint in view of the fact that there were young colored women on the eligible list mainly waiting appointment. Rather than undertake to appoint these teachers on merit, however, the Superintendent of Education set about to create more colored schools and in this connection boldly sought the aid of the legislature to make separate schools compulsory. The bill actually passed both branches of the legislature, This so aroused the manhood and self respect of the better element of our people that it took little or no time to get up and forward a powerful protest to the Governor against lendng the measure his indorsement. Whether this protest was effective or not, suffice it to say, that the bill was vetoed, though the Governor gave other ample grounds for his action. The stir that the affair made among the colored people of Philadelphia did much to cover into silence and shame many secessionist among us who had allied themselves with the Superintendent of Education and whose general attitude on such questions had been such that they could not consistently oppose separation. The net result of the agitation has been to turn over more schools to colored teachers though other colored men may attend if they choose. Feeling that the matter is not ended so far as the Superintendent of Education and those who want to see his policy prevail is concerned, we expect to organize for effective counter movement.
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

While no new economic opportunities have been afforded colored people in Penna., save an experiment being carried on with colored girls in a factory at Harrisburg, we still hold our own as laborers on public works et. where strong arms and a cheerful disposition are in demand; and those qualified to stand the stress and strain of life along other lines, still survive.

On the whole, Pennsylvania reports PROGRESS.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
Sdy. for Penna.

The Association of Colored Mechanics, organized by Prof. R. E. Wright, and which is now being driven earnestly on by Mr. Thompson, who is now president, has been active and effective.

[Signature]

Our last large and enthusiastic meeting in memory of John Brown under the auspices of the Phila. Negro Historical Society, in early part of last Dec., was:

[Signature]