

JUNE · 1877

Six News Items on the West Virginia Capital Campaign¹

Charleston, [W.Va.] June 27, 1877

OUR COLORED CAPITAL MEETING

The meeting of the colored citizens of Kanawha, called for Wednesday, June 27th, was held pursuant to call.

The meeting was organized by appointing James H. Davis to the Chair, and W. P. Campbell,² Secretary.

The Speakers of the evening were Messrs. W. M. Davis,³ Booker Washington, N. V. Bacchus and Stepto Tinsley,⁴ who discussed, in turn, the great benefits to our section of the State, to be secured by the location of the Capital at Charleston.

The following resolution on motion of Fleet Porterfield,⁵ was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we, the colored citizens of Kanawha, feeling keenly the wrong and injustice inflicted upon our section of the State, by the removal of the Capital, and claiming the right to a fair portion of the public institutions, will work diligently and constantly, that every colored voter of Kanawha shall be at the polls, on the 7th day of August, next, and vote for Charleston as the permanent Seat of Government, for the State of West Virginia.

On motion, the meeting adjourned, with three rousing cheers for Charleston.

James H. Davis, Chm'n.

W. P. Campbell, Sec'y.

NOTE. The speeches at the above meeting did great credit to the speakers, and demonstrated that our colored citizens are awake to the importance of the location of the Capital at Charleston.

Charleston *West Virginia Courier*, July 4, 1877, 2.

¹ When West Virginia became a state on Dec. 31, 1862, the seat of government was at Wheeling and remained there until 1870. In 1869 citizens of Charleston petitioned the state legislature promising that they would build a statehouse at their own expense and donate it to the state if the capital was moved to Charleston. The legislature passed a law removing the capital to Charleston after Apr. 1, 1870. Charleston received additional support in 1872, when the state constitution of that year declared Charleston to be the seat of government. Undaunted, the citi-