working ten hours per day, and even after this there are many
who have still wide room for improvement.
Considering, then, the necessity under which we labor of
being at least equal, if not superior as workmen, in order to
overcome the prejudice existing against us, we cannot believe
that the disconnected hours applied to attaining the said trades
will suffice, in the limited period, to give that proficiency of
execution and workmanlike ability which we believe to be in-
dispensably necessary to success in business, and the ultimate
triumph of our enterprise.

An institution such as is now under consideration, will not
be able to accomplish much for the masses. Our people
are wide-spread as are the free states of this Confederacy, their
wants are varied as their localities, and all demand that their
requirements should be equally cared for. The great number
of our people are poor, and in consequence would be unable to
avail themselves of such advantages as the institution might
afford, even if it was their wish so to do.

What then is to be done? What new means must we
device? From all sides we hear the demand for occupations
that shall keep pace with the rising intelligence of our people.
This then is the subject which is daily forced upon us, and it
must be met with a determination to adopt such plans as will
be most certain of success within our reach, and likely to do
the greatest good to the largest number. Having objected to
the plan proposed for the accomplishment of the desired object,
it will of course be expected that we will suggest some substi-
tute. This we will endeavor to do, and will present the
skeleton of a plan, believing that the concentrated wisdom of
the convention now about to assemble will be able to fashion it
into such a “harmonious whole” as will meet the end we have
so much desired.

Let the National Council, when duly organized, establish as
a part of their operations a Mechanical Bureau, accumulating
a fund to be employed in the promotion of the Mechanic Arts
amongst colored men. They shall organize in the several
States, or any locality, Boards of Control, who, when they
shall find a responsible person or persons having a knowledge
of any desirable occupation, and willing for a fair remuneration
as Agent or Foreman to impart the art to colored youth, shall
report the same to the Bureau, giving all necessary information
as to the amount of capital &c. required for carrying out the
said object. The Bureau, after making such provision as may
be necessary, and instituting such supervisory system as may
be desirable, shall advance the amount deemed necessary, requir-
ing such reports from time to time as will be consistent with
the prudent management of financial affairs, and all profits
from such enterprise shall go into the general fund.

By following out such a plan, we may hope for success; and
in a few years, we doubt not, the benefits would be plainly
perceived. We could then employ our capital and direct our
efforts in each and every place where a favorable opening may
present; and ere many years shall have rolled away, we may
be gladdened with the sight of our people employed in walks
of life ennobling in their tendency, and calculated to lead still
higher and higher, until we have achieved such a character as
will sweep away the dark clouds of prejudice and oppression
which would now o’erwhelm us.

Mr. J. C. Wears moved that so much of the report as re-
ferred to the mechanical bureaus be adopted. The motion
was defended by Mr. Wears, and opposed by Dr. J. McCune Smith
and Rev. T. P. Hunt. The Convention adjourned to meet on
the following morning at 9½ o’clock in Franklin Hall.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer was
offered by Rev. E. J. Adams, Pa. The roll was called, and
109 delegates answered their names. The minutes of Tues-
day’s proceedings were read by the Secretary, and after being
corrected were adopted.

Professor Charles L. Reason then read the following report: