

NEARLY MOBBED T. T. FORTUNE

EXCITEMENT AT A MEETING TO INDORSE MISS PUTNAM.

The Friends of the Colored Brooklyn School Teacher Criticised the Editor and He Insisted on Explaining—There Were Bitter Denunciations and Cries of "Put Him Out!" &c.—A Riot Seemed Imminent, but Order Was Restored—The Teacher Was Then Indorsed.

T. Thomas Fortune, the colored editor of Brooklyn, narrowly escaped personal violence at a meeting of friends of Miss Georgiana Putnam, the colored school teacher, in the Fleet Street African Methodist Episcopal Church, Brooklyn, last evening.

The meeting had been called by friends of Miss Putnam to protest against alleged discrimination against her in Public School No. 83, Brooklyn, by the local committee of the Board of Education. The room in which Miss Putnam taught has recently been locked against her. One of the few persons of her race in Brooklyn who has opposed her is Editor Fortune.

He was not invited to attend last night's meeting in the Fleet Street church, but he appeared early, and a little later insisted on speaking. He was hissed down and took refuge behind the pulpit to escape the menacing demonstrations of the crowd.

After partial order had been restored Mr. Fortune emerged from behind the pulpit. Again he essayed to speak, and again the audience threatened to handle him roughly. In the disorder succeeding the meeting was all but stampeded and women narrowly escaped being trampled under foot.

Finally Mr. Fortune was forced to leave the church hurriedly, accompanied by Frederick Moore of 15 Douglass Street, who had accompanied him. Their exit was greeted with cat calls and hisses.

The Rev. H. A. Henry presided over the meeting. At the opening he said it had been called in the interest of humanity, not to foment strife. Those present came to protect the rights which the colored race felt belonged to them.

He severely scored the local school committee, which had refused to allow Miss Putnam to teach. He then referred to a certain "snaky individual" who went about seeking notoriety.

At this Mr. Fortune sprang to his feet and tried to attract the attention of the chair. He was hissed down, and Dr. Henry informed him he could not speak.

Mr. Fortune insisted on speaking, and at once two or three stalwart men made a rush for him. He sat down amid yells of: "Put him out!" and "Sit down!"

The meeting then proceeded quietly for a few moments, when Mr. T. Fortune again jumped up and tried to speak. Instantly cries of "Put him out!" "Don't listen to the traitor!" arose from all parts of the house. Men jumped up in the pews and fired volleys of reproach at Fortune, who was trying to make himself heard above the din. He finally said if they would give him a chance he would answer some of their charges.

Mr. Moore joined Mr. Fortune and began to interrupt the regular speakers. At this the entire audience made a rush for them, and Mr. Fortune retreated behind the pulpit, but not before the assemblage had roundly hissed him and one old man had shaken his fist in his face and said:

"I know you, you Judas Iscariot—you who sold your Master for thirty pieces of silver."

The men then rushed at Mr. Moore, who held his ground, while the excited crowd surged about him with threatening ejaculations.

"Throw him out." "Get an officer and have him locked up," they cried.

Then Mr. Fortune came from behind the pulpit, and the crowd stampeded to another part of the church, to the imminent danger of trampling the women under foot.

Mr. Fortune, by this time impressed by the bad humor of the crowd, hurried from the church, followed by a storm of catcalls and hisses.

After quiet had been restored, resolutions were adopted censuring the local committee of School No. 83 for its action in Miss Putnam's case.

The Rev. Dr. Henry, speaking to the resolutions, said:

"We resent the committee's action because we feel it is a blow at the rights of the colored race. After thirty years' service in the public schools, it has just been found out that Miss Putnam is incompetent. Superintendent of Schools Maxwell, however, tells me she is among the most competent teachers in the city."

Speeches were made by the Rev. Howard Bliss, assistant pastor of Plymouth Church; George E. Wibbercan, Charles Taylor, Dr. William Hunter, and Charles Anderson, all of whom censured the local committee and praised Miss Putnam.