

James Theodore Holly

**James Theodore Holly: Black Nationalist
and Religious Writings**

Edited and introduced
by Greg Robinson



15499 8/E-2

Reverend James Theodore Holly. Born in Washington, D.C. as a descendent of free slaves, Holly was baptized and confirmed a Roman Catholic. His early years were spent in D.C. and Brooklyn where he connected with Frederick Douglass and other black abolitionists. After a dispute over the ordination of black clergy, Holly left the Catholic Church and joined the Episcopal Church in 1851. As an Episcopalian, Holly attended the first National Emigration Convention as a delegate and was selected commissioner for the newly formed National Emigration Board. Under the auspices of this office, he traveled to Haiti in order to negotiate an emigration treaty. While there, he explored the possibility of establishing a mission for the Episcopal Church. Upon Holly's return to the United States, he requested that he be sent to Haiti to serve as a missionary, a request denied by the Board of Missions of the Episcopal Church.

In 1856 Holly was ordained a priest in New Haven, Connecticut. That same year he co-founded the Protestant Episcopal Society for Promoting the Extension of the Church Among Colored People, which challenged the Church to take a position at General Convention against slavery. Holly served as rector at St Luke's Church in New Haven, Connecticut until 1861 during which time he traveled and extolled the benefits of emigration to Haiti, a country where slaves had led a successful revolt and overthrown their European forces. He viewed Haiti as an opportunity for blacks to bind together and establish a black nation in the Western hemisphere. Holly believed that bringing Anglicanism to Haiti would help to stabilize and develop the country more expeditiously.

Upon Holly's resignation from his position at St. Luke's in 1861, he led a group of 110 people to Haiti. Many in the group were congregants of St. Luke's and subscribed to Holly's vision for Haiti. Despite the obstacles, they succeeded in the establishment of a mission in Haiti. The disease and poor living conditions plaguing the settlers (forty-three members died of yellow fever and malaria during the first year, including his mother, wife and two of his children), prompted many of them to return to the United States. Holly remained with only the most dedicated followers to establish schools, a church, and programs in pastoral training and countryside medicine.

It was not until 1865 and after many denied requests, that Holly finally began to receive limited sponsorship from the Board of Missions for his work in Haiti. After serving as consul for Liberia at Port-au-Prince from 1864 to 1874, Holly was consecrated missionary bishop to Haiti at Grace Episcopal Church in New York City, becoming the first African American bishop in the Episcopal Church. As bishop, Holly served as a delegate to the Lambeth conference in England, and received a doctoral degree from Howard University and an honorary law degree from Liberia College, Monrovia. He continued to live and work in Haiti, returning rarely to the United States, until his death in 1911.



9 781643 825342

Cat.#: B1462
ISBN: 978-1-64382-534-2

JK
CIDIHCA



Co-edition CIDIHCA and
Educa Vision Inc.
www.educavision.com

Table of contents

Introduction by Greg Robinson	9
<i>Early Years</i>	11
<i>Revolution vs. Emigration</i>	13
<i>Holly and Canada</i>	16
<i>Holly and Haiti</i>	21
<i>The New Haven Colony</i>	27
<i>First Years in Haiti</i>	29
<i>The Haitian Church</i>	31
<i>Bishop Holly</i>	33
<i>The Orthodox Apostolic Church and the Manuel</i>	36
<i>A Black Nationalist Doctrine</i>	38
<i>Later Life</i>	41
<i>Works Cited</i>	43
A Vindication of the Capacity of the Negro Race for Self-Government, and Civilized Progress, as Demonstrated by Historical Events of the Haytian Revolution; and the Subsequent Acts of that People Since their National Independence	45
<i>Lecture</i>	47
<i>Reasons for assuming such a task</i>	47
<i>An additional reason for the present task</i>	49
<i>The Revolutionary History of Hayti</i>	49
<i>The basis of this argument</i>	49
<i>Preliminary Incidents of the Revolution</i>	51
<i>The Self-Possession of the Blacks;</i>	53
<i>an Evidence of their Capacity for Self-Government</i>	53
<i>Similar Evidence on the Part of the Free Men of Color</i>	56

<i>The Opportune Movement of the Free Colored Men</i>	57
<i>The Crisis Produced in the Colony by this Decree.</i>	
<i>The Men of Color on the Side of Liberty, Law, and Order.</i>	61
<i>The Hour of Destiny for the Blacks</i>	65
<i>The Auspicious Dawn of Negro Rule</i>	69
<i>A Bloody Interlude Finally Establishes Negro Sovereignty</i>	77
<i>Evidences of Self-Government Since 1804</i>	80
<i>Evidences of Civilized Progress. National Enterprise.</i>	81
<i>Stability of the Government</i>	85
<i>Conclusion</i>	89
A General View of Hayti	93
<i>Adverse Foreign Political Influences</i>	96
<i>Adverse Foreign Religious Influences</i>	98
Manual of Dogmatic Theology	105
<i>Foreword</i>	105
<i>Second Part: Biblical Study</i>	107
Bishop J.T. Holly's Opinion on the Haytian Emigration Question	117
<i>Dedication</i>	123
Facts About the Church's Mission in Haiti	123
<i>The Author</i>	124
Socialism From the Biblical Point of View	139
Bimetalism and Industrialism	155
Spread-Eagleism	163
The Origin of Race Antagonism	171
Confederacy for the Negro	177

The publication by CIDIP of James Theodore Holly's introduction to the life of a notable African American free black family in the early 19th century. James Theodore Holly (AKA Ja) engaged early in life in the 1850s, he moved to Canada self as a journalist for the *the Fugitive*, and emerged as an advocate of emigration and advocate of emigrating to Haiti in 1860. In the emigration movement, he published the Apostolic Orthodox Church missionary bishop of Haiti, thereby making himself an African descent to become a stream American religious further enlarged four years in England to attend the Lambeth Church. He delivered a sermon at the Abbey and met Queen Victoria as bishop of the Haitian church.

Throughout these decades, even as Holly pursued his