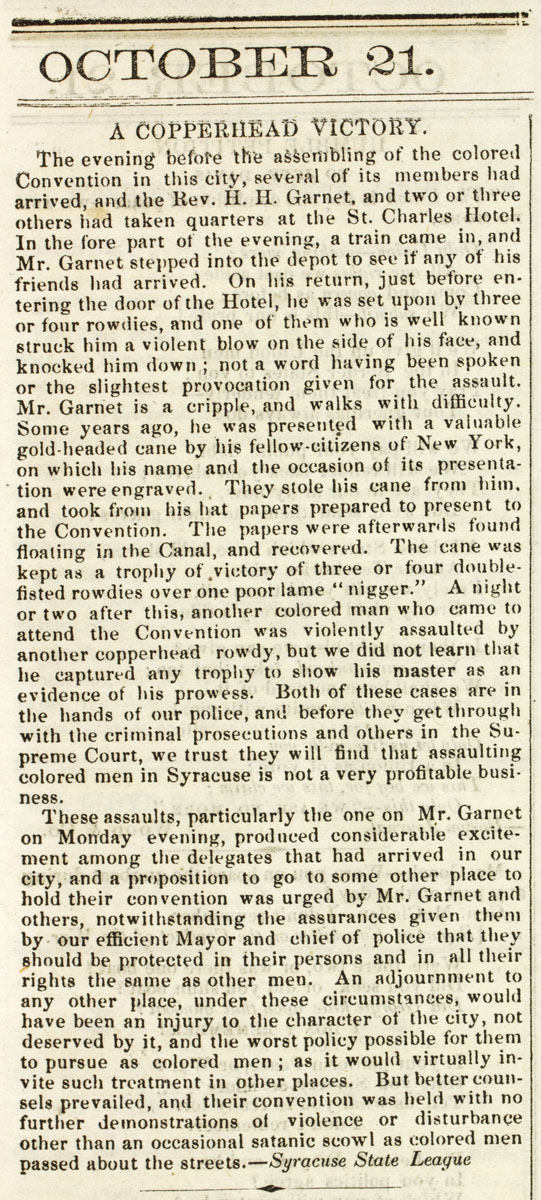
**Primary Source Analysis Worksheet**

**“A Copperhead Victory,” *The Liberator,* October 21, 1864**

*Teacher Answer Key*



1. Working with a partner, identify the key elements of the events as depicted in the article (the narrative):

*Teacher Notes: Students will summarize the article in different ways. Some of the key components (with additional teacher context supplied parenthetically) should include:*

* Rev. H. H. (Henry Highland) Garnet, a leader of the “colored Convention” (full title: National Convention of Colored Citizens of the United States), met in Syracuse (the Syracuse National Convention of Colored Men) in October, 1864.
* Garnet used a cane due to a difficulty walking.
* While awaiting the arrival of other delegates at the train station, Rev. Garnet was violently attacked by three or four men. They stole his cane as a trophy of the attack, a cane that had been presented to him in honor by other citizens of NY. Given the title of the article and the later use of the term “copperhead rowdy,” the reader can assume these men were Copperheads.
* They stole his papers that contained the notes of a speech he was to deliver at the Convention, throwing them into a canal. The notes were later retrieved.
* Another man attending the Convention was attacked a few days later.
* The police investigated.
* Several attendees wanted to relocate the convention to another city, including Mr. Garnet.
* The police and mayor promised to ensure the safety of the attendees.

1. Review the sentence, “The cane was kept as a trophy of victory of three or four double-fisted rowdies over one poor, lame ‘nigger.’” Considering this sentence in context of the overall article and the journalist’s use of quotation marks, what is the journalist suggesting? Is this sentence a factual, objective depiction of the event? What might you infer about leaning of *The Liberator* in regard to black civil rights from this sentence?

*Teacher Notes: The journalist is employing sarcasm to emphasize the power imbalance between the attackers and the victim. By highlighting the imbalance and putting the word “nigger” in quotation marks, the journalist is signaling his or her distain for use of that term to describe a person of color.*

1. A *stakeholder* is a person or a group with an interest or concern in the outcome of an event or situation. Complete the following chart, thinking about the various stakeholders in the event as depicted in the article.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Stakeholder | Desired outcome in the event (their “stake”) | Evidence from article to support your analysis of desired outcome |
| 1 | Mr. Garnet and attendees at the Convention | To attend a convention for people of color | “… assembling of the colored Convention”  “…papers prepared to present at the Convention” |
| 2 | Copperhead attackers | To intimidate the men attending the convention | “violent blow… without the slightest provocation…”  “… cane kept as a trophy of victory…”  “… assaulting colored men in Syracuse…” |
| 3 | The Mayor and Police | To pursue the perpetrators of the crime and to provide equal protection to all men in Syracuse.  To maintain law and order in their city. | “… before they get through with the criminal prosecutions and others in the Supreme Court, we trust they will find that assaulting colored men in Syracuse is not a very profitable business.”  “An adjournment to any other place, under these circumstances, would have been an injury to the character of the city…” |
| 4 | The article’s author | To position the Copperhead assaulters as criminals, thugs and terrorists.  To show editorial censure of the actions of the Copperheads.  To encourage the men in the Convention to not bow down to terrorism. | “… victory of three or four double-fisted rowdies over one poor lame ‘nigger.’”  “… adjournment to any other place, under these circumstances, would have been an injury to the character of the city, not deserved by it, and the worst policy possible for them to pursue as colored men; as it would virtually invite such treatment in other places.” |

4. Reading closely, what clues do you find in the article about who the Copperheads were? What evidence do you see in the article to support your analysis?

*Teacher Notes: The primary source documents a violent, terrorist act by Copperheads. Depending on the time available for the lesson, there is an opportunity to explore the broader concept of the voice of dissent. Copperheads were alternatively referred to as Peace Democrats (the Northern branch of the Democrat Party). These opponents to Lincoln’s strategy based their opposition on economic, racial and political differences with the Republican Party policies. Not all Peace Democrats advocated the violence exhibited by the Copperheads against Reverend Henry Highland Garnet.*

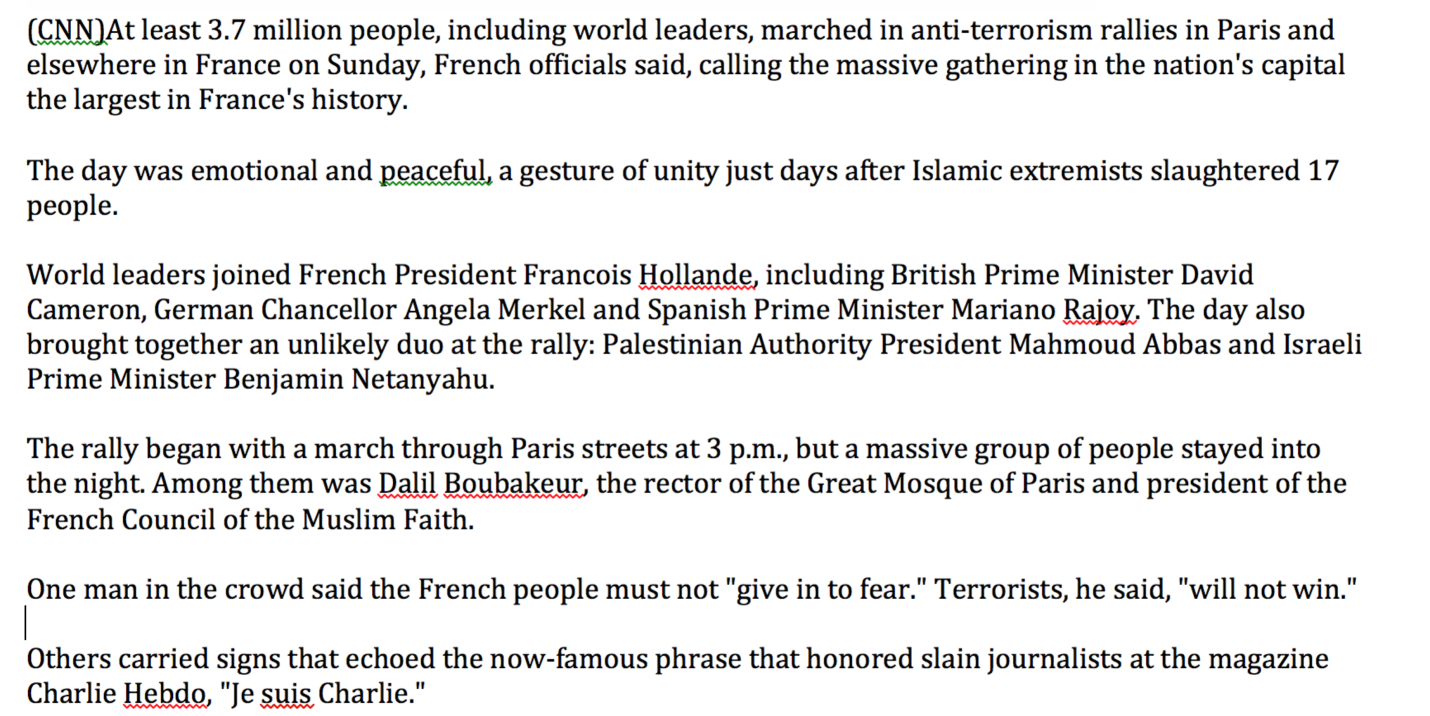
*Analysis of the article reveals the Copperheads were opposed to the participants in the Convention. By inference, students can conclude that they were opposed to black men organizing to advance the standing of blacks in America (no specifics about the agenda of the Convention itself are included in the article). Evidence includes:*

* *Targeting a prominent figure at the Convention for violence*
* *Stealing and discarding the text of a speech to be delivered at the Convention*
* *Retention of the memorial cane that honored Reverend Garnet*
* *Assault on a second member of the Convention*

5. What does the journalist say Mr. Garnet and the Convention delegates should do in response to the assaults (second paragraph of article)? Consider the following excerpt from a *CNN* article on the response to the killings of the journalists at the French publication *Charlie Hebdo* in January 2105. What similarities and differences can you identify the response to the assault on Mr. Garnet and the killings at the *Charlie Ebdo* headquarters?

*Teacher Notes: Both articles highlight a refusal to be intimidated in the face of terroristic actions. “A Copperhead Victory” article calls for the object of terrorism to refuse to alter course (e.g., to move the convention to a different city) in the face of terrorism. The government (Mayor and police) pledge support for the safety of the attendees. The CNN article shows a broad response across groups to act together in defiance of terrorism. Government officials as well as those who were not directly targeted (whites in Syracuse and the broader population in France) become actively involved in the opposition to the terrorists.*





6. What questions do you have about the event or information described in the article?

*Teacher Notes: Some topics rich for further discussion might include:*

* Who was Reverend Garnet and why was he a leader at the Convention?
* What was the agenda for the Convention? What was achieved?
* Were some cities safer than Syracuse for black activists? If so, where? Why were they safer?
* Were these types of violent events typical of the Copperheads? Did they achieve the intended results?
* How instrumental were these types of conventions in the overall advancement of political, economic and civil rights for blacks at the time?