

and a profusion of silky hair;" he carried his medium frame with a liteness which suggested a larger stature. His small hands were extremely expressive, and Rainey knew how to use them effectively in gesturing to emphasize a point. His speech was fluent, at times eloquent, and always earnest and in modulated tones.

When Congress convened in December, 1870, Rainey was sworn in but seldom took an active part in the proceedings. During this session the young Congressman delivered three short speeches for the removal of political disabilities and one on behalf of the National Colored Labor Convention.

Rainey was more active in the Forty-second Congress, which met in March, 1871. On April 1 he delivered his first major speech—a vigorous plea for legislation to enforce the Fourteenth Amendment (one feature of which assures the voting rights of all men) in which he called for action against outrages at the South Carolina polls. In this speech however, as in several others, Rainey spoke out against

bitterness and expressed pride in his state's accomplishments.

Congressman Rainey was even more energetic in the next session of Congress; he made several speeches, speaking in favor of the Ku Klux Act and of amnesty if linked to civil rights. He presented ten petitions for the passage of the Civil Rights Bill which would guarantee blacks their full constitutional rights, as well as access to public accommodations such as hotels, entertainment places, and schools. He dramatized his stand on the issue by entering and refusing to leave the dining room of a hotel in Suffolk, Virginia, and allowing himself to be forcibly removed from the premises. Rainey also proposed a bill to establish an American steamship line for trade and mail delivery to Haiti, though no action was ever taken on it.

Rainey's district was so thoroughly Republican that he faced no opposition in the election of 1872. By this time he had earned a new prestige and was completely at ease



Rainey-Camlin House

Photo by Christopher Breeze