

The text of this Bill, of the Constitutional Amendment and the Supplementary Bill is doubtless familiar to the majority of readers of the Leader, and the changes they effect in our State politics are probably well understood.

The supplementary bill is designed to inaugurate the practical part of the work of reconstruction in harmony with the "policy" of Congress, the will of the people and the destiny of the nation. It provides for the registration of voters; specifies the time within which it shall be done, the time for the election of Delegates for the Convention, in a word, does all that is necessary to set the bill in motion to reorganize the State Government on the basis of equal rights and universal suffrage.

Registrars will be appointed for each election District, and every male citizen who has resided within the State one year previous to the election to be held after the registration, and who is not disqualified by participation in the rebellion or for crime, of the age of twenty-one years will be allowed to register.

This enfranchises virtually all of the black population of the Southern States, disfranchises a part of the white, completes the overthrow of the rebellion and agrees with Andrew Johnson's previous sentiments. To be more particular:

First—It removes the freedmen from the oppression and injustice which would result from the legislation of his former master.

Second—It confers upon him the high privileges of citizenship.

Third—It establishes a republican form of government, in that it secures the right to vote to the majority of inhabitants or men within the State who are not legally excluded.

Fourth—It establishes the authority and power of the national Government and makes treason a crime.

Fifth—It places within the hands of the friends of freedom and the Union the control of the State and will doubtless, for that very reason, exercise a beneficial influence on its material reconstruction and further development of its resources. Responsibility will quicken and strengthen the thousands of colored men now within the State and a liberal policy will invite laborers in abundance, and a New South will rise from the blackened ruins which enshroud our land, bearing the same staple productions, but disburdened of slavery; and crowned with liberty, shall eclipse all that come before in glory and greatness.

"CLEAR THE DECKS."

This is the work always done on a man-of-war previous to engagement, in order that no rubbish may interfere with the free use of the guns, and that the decks may be freely traversed. If ever there was a time when efforts should be made to "clear the decks" of the newly constructed accession to the political navy of this State, that time is now. It is fast drifting into the waters where the irrepressible conflict is going on, it will soon be one of the oubta triangles and its powers of endurance fearfully tried. To meet those exciting moments and pass through conflict successfully and come out victoriously, we need first to come to some agreement as to our plan of action in them. We need to form a great, broad, and substantial political platform having its foundation on the eternal principles declared by the illustrious fathers, viz: That all men are free and equal, and that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and then to advocate these principles by every means at our command till their be a strong political party formed comprising a majority of the voters under the military bill now in the State.

For political purposes we must ignore all social distinctions and church boundaries, forget the past and live to the present and look to the glorious future. This must be done at once, or commenced at once, if we would secure the triumph we desire, or we may find ourselves in a class, "Saddled and bridled, carrying our pretended friends but real enemies into place and power and our harvest shall turn out like that of the careless husbandman whose fields had been strewn with pernicious seeds by his enemies while he slept. I need not argue the importance of political union among the Colored people of the State nor the need of a political party to which all can subscribe, for I cannot conceive that there is or can be any difference of opinion existing among ourselves or friends on these

questions. The only question to be settled now is as to the method of bringing it about. How is the Union to be effected? Can not a political party be formed? Is not the thing necessary for the thorough canvassing of all the questions relating to our present political situation by means of the press, stump and pulpit. A work in which the people can take a very large share and I sincerely hope will prove herself equal to the opportunities and responsibilities. Following this discussion let there come forth the basis of a party to which the black man can conscientiously and without prejudice to his interests devoutly adhere, and the greater part of the work is done. I lay down my pen in the hope that this subject and questions relating to it will be taken up by others and feel justice done them. It comes to the people at large and should be freely discussed by them.

ANDERSON'S THE PEABODY GIFT.

The great charity-gift of General Peabody, Esq., for the benefit of the South is being applied for by the hungry ones, with amazing rapidity. Efforts are on foot to enjoy the benefits at the earliest possible date. The whites, with their usual shrewdness and cunning, are appropriating so rapidly that it will all be absorbed in a short time. It is a pity that a certain part had not been specified by the donor for the benefit of the colored youth; or, that the selection of a man to execute the will of the donor had not been more happy. By the time a person is found willing to give the due proportion to the colored people in South Carolina, the appropriations will all have been made, and there will be "no more left." If Mr. Peabody had selected Mr. Wagner, Wm. Whaley or Gov. Magrath, to carry out his will, the colored people might have stood a tolerable chance—they were out and Confederates, siding the Davis government above board—and when a change came they manfully accepted the situation—and to-day, the colored man may find in them better friends than in a man who could give his money to entertain Confederate officers and give his means to carry on the war against the United States, and then cry out, "I am a Union man," and advise the continuance of the disfranchisement of the blacks—because they would be likely to vote for their old "masters;" and yet, he was the owner of nine hundred and ninety-nine at the same time. Such a man cannot be trusted. We fear for the poor negroes' interests, if left in such hands. Give us an open foe and a fair fight, and we will trust to luck. "He who steals my purse, gets trash—but he who robs me of my good name takes that which will not enrich him, but leaves me poor and miserable." The negro, we trust, will know how to treat such capting hypocrites, who, at heart, are traitors to their country, and enemies to the negro—yet, have not the insolence to avow their true sentiments. Under the garb of loyalty, they seek to carry on their nefarious dealings.

Amid the revolutions incident to national progress, there are always doubts entertained among the best and wisest of men, as to whether the changes in life are for the best, or whether the measures—new in their bearings and results—will justify the hazards in question, and interests so momentous to the well-being of mankind?

The fierce and rapid tide of Republicanism which swept over France during the days of Robespierre, Danton and their compeers, with all the purifying and electrifying influences which Liberty could give to a nation, were but the initiatory steps in the great drama of a people bounding forth to a higher and more dignified national character. It is true that crowned heads were dissatisfied, peers and lords were disturbed, the aristocracy—that old relic of barbarous ages—were discomfited; but, the people—the great masses—were enfranchised, received their birth-right, and the beautiful Goddess of Liberty, the mother of us all, was enthroned. Conservatives of that time deplored the destruction of government; "constitutional liberty," they said, was destroyed; law and order had no place in which to dwell, said they. But they spoke for themselves, not for the people. They deplored the loss of power, place and preferment; so they were opposed to the government created by the people. But the results in France have proved that revolutions never go backwards. They purify and rehabilitate a nation. Did France sink into insignificance after her internal troubles? Did England lose her power and influence after Cromwell had guided the helm of state and humbled the proud aristocracy of the realm? Did America sink into ignominy after she had successfully

met the opposing hosts of King George IV? Has there been degradation entailed upon the descendants of those who rose up in their might and hurled from power, the usurpers of man's liberty in the original thirteen States? No. The genius of liberty which inspired Patrick Henry, Jefferson, Washington, and their compeers, prepared the way for their descendants to achieve a higher destiny. Those same principles which made the Americans rise in all which constitute greatness, after their liberation from the oppression of England, will give to the colored man in their midst, the same impetus—and will conduct them through all the changes and ultimately bring them into the happy realization of true freedom, which is a proper appreciation of all the benefits of government and political equality.

The country will be benefited by this change in various ways. The constant irritation consequent upon the disfranchisement of so large a number of citizens, will be avoided. Mistrusts and dissensions will naturally cease—confidence and mutual goodwill will be established among all classes—our interests being identical, our efforts will be harmonious. The colored man feeling that he is an important part of the government, will seek to sustain the same; being a citizen of the State, he will feel all the pride of a participant in her destiny. Her political influence in the national affairs will be a matter of constant consideration to him—the return of election days—the contests for office—the onerous duties which will devolve upon him as a participant in the glory of the whole nation will inspire him to efforts which will add to the prosperity of the nation. The addition to the commerce of the country is an important consideration. The four millions of people made citizens by Congress will be encouraged to remain in, and develop the resources of the South. Their wants being multiplied by the rising influence of education and enlightenment, they will require a larger amount of mercantile interchange for all the commodities of trade. The results will be a more general circulation of money, a larger range of business relations, a more extensive commerce and a larger revenue to the national Treasury. The war debt will be more speedily paid, the mineral, as well as the agricultural resources of the land will be developed, and every branch of labor receive a new energy. While politicians will have a larger field in which to labor, yet the people will be fast learning the duties of citizens, and the country will be saved from a possibility of another rebellion or internal strife. Let us, therefore, accept the directions of Providence and do our duties.

REPUBLICAN MASS MEETING.

A large and enthusiastic meeting was held on Thursday evening at the Military Hall in Wentworth St. to adopt a platform for the republican party and take the initiatory steps for preparing a platform for the State.

The meeting was called to order by the chairman of a committee appointed at a previous meeting, H. Judge Moore, and opened by prayer by Rev. R. H. Cain. Next followed the reading of the report of the committee by Rev. E. J. Adams. To say the least of the report, it is one highly creditable to the committee and can and should be endorsed by every colored citizen in the community.

The reading of the platform was followed by a masterly speech by the Rev. gentleman in favor of universal suffrage, and supporting the resolutions offered. He claimed universal suffrage, first, on the ground of man's volition, stating that having a right to choose his pursuits in life and the God he would worship, it followed also that he should exercise that right in the choice of the rulers he would serve. He next met the objections founded on the incapacity of the blacks, and completely overthrew them by citing their conduct in the late physical struggle. He claimed it thirdly, as the only reward that could be given for their long years of suffering and unrequited toil, and their unwavering fidelity to the national government. Again he advocated it, because to abridge suffrage was incompatible with the genius of republicanism. Fifth, because union cannot be secured without it and characterized it as the only means of defence of our liberties. He here stated that the political equality here secured was very different from social equality and remarked that he would shudder if he thought the measures advocated would bring this about, lest some low drunken white enemy would creep to his bedside and marry his daughter. He closed his immense cheering. He was followed by Rev. Mr. Cardozo, who delivered an appropriate speech treating with excellent advice to members of the party, and abounding with caution and discriminating warning. Space will not permit to give a report of all that was said.

Mr. Cardozo was succeeded by Rev. M. Randolph, who soon captivated every ear by his sallies of wit and manly expression. Messrs. DeLarge and Cohen also made brief and pertinent speeches. A resolution was offered by Mr. S. L. Bennett proposing the call of a state convention which was adopted by the meeting, after which a motion for adjournment being put, the meeting adjourned to meet on Citadel square on next Tuesday afternoon, at 10 o'clock.

Rev. R. H. Cain stated that the South Carolina Leader endorsed the platform which was received with cheers.

H. Judge Moore announced also that the Charleston Advocate adopted the creed. The crowd then dispersed and a voice soon rang profound in the venerable hall that had resounded with the hearty cheers of new-born citizens.

The following gentlemen composed the committee on Platform: H. J. Moore, Chairman, M. G. Campbell, D. J. Adams, Peter Miller, J. N. Hayne, Jno. B. Morris, J. D. Price, Benj. Reels, J. P. M. Epping, B. F. Randolph, R. C. DeLarge, F. L. Cardozo, Saml. L. Bennett and W. J. Brodie.

WHEREAS, the founders of this republic based the same on the self-evident truth—that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, it is set forth in the preamble of the Federal Constitution of '87, that it was ordained, not by the several States or inhabitants thereof, but by "the people of the United States," "in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and to secure the blessings of liberty to its founders and their posterity;" and

WHEREAS, Congress, by its well considered and almost unanimous action (which action has had the sanction of the loyal people of the country) has provided by the Constitutional Amendment proposed as "Article 14," and the recent Reconstruction Bill "for the re-organization of the civil powers of the States lately in rebellion and for the general of their representation in Congress; and

WHEREAS, we recognize in those legislative provisions wise state-ship as regards the future, justice tempered with mercy towards the former enemies of the Union, and every guarantee for the protection of all loyal citizens, without distinction of race, or color, or previous condition, in the enjoyment of every right conferred by the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, we regard the great National Republican party, under the guidance of Divine Providence, as the savior of our country from the perils of the late rebellion, for the reconstruction of the Union, and as the only party whose principles can justify us in committing the present and future interests of the country to their keeping. Therefore Resolved,

I. That we give our cordial and entire sanction to the action of Congress, for the restoration of the Union, and to the wise and just principles of the Republican party.

II. That in order to make the labors of all our loyal fellow-citizens more efficient for carrying out the provisions of Congress, for the restoration of law and order in our States, as well as for the peace and prosperity of our entire country, we do form an association to be known as the Union Republican Party of South Carolina.

III. That we pledge our sacred honor, our fortunes and our lives, to serve our country, to preserve her institutions, and especially to aid her in keeping inviolate the national debt which has been sacredly pledged to the payment of the national debt incurred to save the liberties of the country, and to suppress rebellion, and that the people will not suffer this faith to be violated or impaired, but all debts incurred to support the rebellion, as they were unlawfully void and of no obligation, shall never be assumed by the United States; nor shall South Carolina be permitted to pay any debt whatever which was contracted to aid the rebellion in any form.

IV. That the nation owes to the brave men, white and colored, of our army and navy, a debt of gratitude for their heroic services in defence of the Constitution and the Union; and that while we cherish with a tender affection the memories of the fallen, we pledge to their widows and orphans the nation's care and protection.

V. That as republican institutions cannot be preserved, unless intelligence be generally diffused among all classes, we will demand of our Legislature a uniform system of common schools, which shall be open to all without distinction of race, color, or

previous condition—such a system to be supported by a general tax upon all kinds of property.

VI. That we will favor a liberal system of public improvements, such as railroads, canals and other works, and also such a system of awarding contracts for the same as will give all our fellow-citizens an equal and fair chance to share in them.

VII. That we will also insist on such modification of the laws of the State as will do away with imprisonment for debt, except for fraud; and imprisonment of wife, person, except for willful absence; and especially to abolish, entirely and forever, the barbarous custom of corporal punishment for crime or any other cause.

VIII. That, as large land monopolies tend only to make rich richer, and poor poorer, and ruinous to the agricultural, commercial and social interests of the State, the Legislature should offer every practicable inducement for the division and sale of unoccupied lands among the poor classes, and as an encouragement to immigrants to settle in our State.

IX. That the law of "repealment" and "abolition" should be so modified as to confer equally on the freed and the tenant.

X. That the provisions should be made for the exemption of the poor man's home and land.

XI. That the interests of the State demand a revision of the entire code of law, and the reorganization of the Courts.

XII. That the interest, not only of the State, but of the whole country, demand every possible guarantee for the perpetuity of all the rights conferred upon the newly enfranchised portion of our fellow-citizens, and that, in the use of the sacred right of the elective franchise, we will seek to elevate to office of trust and honor, only those who are truly loyal, honest and capable, irrespective of race, color, or previous condition.

XIII. That we will not support any candidate for office who will not openly declare, advocate and defend the principles adopted by the Union Republican Party.

XIV. The consolidation of justice and humanity demand provision by the Legislature for the protection, care, of all the aged, infirm and helpless poor, irrespective of race, color or previous condition.

XV. Relying upon Divine Providence for wisdom in our councils, efficiency in action, harmony among ourselves, with malice towards none and charity to all, we pledge our earnest and best efforts for the return of peace and prosperity to all our people and for an early representation of our beloved State in the Congress of the United States.

NEGROES UNDER THE CLOUD. To the Editor of the Leader: I have read with mortification and regret the speeches of two colored men, viz: Beverly Nash and Rev. D. Pickett, delivered in Columbia at a mass meeting of colored citizens. While every measure sanctioned by justice and right principle should be put forth by these hard-pressed people, laboring under an understanding and persecuting system, and the friends of the blacks, as these two would be politicians are reported to have done, they should resolve that condemnations from their fellow-citizens which their actions justify merit.

By the one, the colored race is dragged into an alliance with the bases of the law, and pledged to the support of a rebel, whose principles are based on slavery, including slavery, with all its appurtenances, at the point of the bayonet. By the other they are declared too ignorant and poor to be benefited by the elective franchise. One opposes disfranchising the rebel whites, the other opposes enfranchising loyal blacks, and both are found contending against the known law of the land.

The one takes the ground of universal suffrage including rebels, traitors, freedmen and all. The other favors qualified suffrage excluding the ignorant and the poor, and both are found obeying the influence of a defunct power. But charity bids us ascribe these expressions to the presence of certain gentlemen, at the sound of whose whip in by-gone days these new-made statesmen were wont to tremble with fearful apprehensions. Gentlemen, there may be many under the cloud still like yourselves but there are many more who have seen the sunlight and felt the inspiring beams of Freedom and who are willing to put off the old man with his deeds and to put on the new and will not "petition" for the renouncing of their old masters on the new horse which the Military Reconstruction Bill creates. They are too well content with the past favors in the shape of cowhides, sugar-houses, paddles and dogs received at the hands of those gentlemen, "who upheld their principles at the point of the bayonet" when in place and power, to beg for their second defilement.

In justice to Mr. Nash, we publish the following: COLUMBIA, S. C., March 22, 1867. T. Harley:—Dear Sir and Brother—My answer to the article, "Please find my answer to the article." Thank you for obliging me to see that I was not condemned without a hearing. Yours respectfully, W. B. Nash.

Notice, Editors Columbia Phoenix: Will you please to give this a place in your paper. I see in yesterday's South Carolina what purports to be an address made by me to the colored people in this city, on Monday, the 18th instant. Now, I wish it understood that the speech published in the Charleston is not a fair or correct statement of my remarks. There are some sentiments in it that I never uttered, and there are some things which I did say that are not stated. My remarks were made from the impulse of the moment; nevertheless, I would wish to be correctly stated. They are a reasonable and respectful one, by N. E. I read, and adopted, at the meeting on the 18th instant, I helped to prepare; they represent my opinions. Yours respectfully, W. B. NASH.

COLUMBIA, S. C., March 20. The First Lecture before the Ladies Sewing Circle, connected with St. Mark's Church, was delivered by the Rev. D. J. Adams on Tuesday evening at Military Hall, subject "Triumph of the hour." The subject was handled in a masterly manner. The attendance was small owing to the progress of the fair for the Mission Presbyterian Church, of which the speaker is pastor. The next lecture will take place on Friday evening next at the hall, subject "Energy."

Special Notice.

The corner stone of the Mission Presbyterian (N. S.) Church is now in course of erection in George St. between King and St. Phillip st. will be laid on next Monday afternoon, at 3 o'clock.

A cordial representation of the various denominations are invited, also the Fraternity.

Several Clergymen of other Religious bodies will participate in the exercises. A collection to assist in paying for the Church lot will be taken, we therefore hope that all could prepare to assist us in this direction.

E. J. Adams. The colored citizens of Washington and Georgetown are about organizing a joint stock association, for the purpose of establishing a daily and weekly newspaper in the National Metropolis. It is stated that upward of 8,000 have already been subscribed.

Governor Bullock, of Massachusetts, with consent of Council, has appointed George E. Rollin (elected) a Justice of the Peace for the County of Suffolk.

Robert Lincoln, the eldest son of the late President Lincoln, has been admitted to the bar of Illinois.

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