

# How Freedom Came.

BY JOHNNY.

Say, Mister, what are your politics? The people who, in gratitude for their freedom, feel that they must be Republicans, are in my opinion very much mistaken. My father raised a company and was its captain in the civil war, many of my relatives were in the ranks, and General Benjamin Butler, who discovered the legal means to free the slaves by calling them "contraband of war," was a not distant cousin; so I have reason to feel proud of their enthusiasm in what they considered a good cause.

I regard the work of such men as only half, however, in the great movement that freed four millions of people from an unrighteous bondage. And I think that my Negro friends will agree with me. You know the Southern States were not the only ones that had threatened to secede. Some of the Northern States had at times grown "spunky," and said that they would leave the Union if certain things did not go their way. They were manufacturing districts instead of agricultural, as the South was, and commercial reasons did bring things their way, so they were never driven to the point of secession as the South was.

This was the question of the war. The right to secede, to leave the union. It had never been tested. The act of secession brought on the civil war. Was it one government or a confederation of states? It needed two parties to settle the question and these two parties were the Federalists, Father Abraham's party, and the Confederates. As a war measure the slaves were freed, and simply as a war measure to weaken the South; however strongly some people felt about slavery as a moral question, emancipation would never have come unless by the Southern slave owners themselves, except for the contest over the right of states to secede from the Union. It was an accident almost, as men are concerned, that the slaves were freed.

It was as though two small boys were playing marbles until one became dissatisfied and said that he was going home; the other said that he must not go until the game was finished and in the fight that ensued, a pony that belonged to the dissatisfied one was set free, and sent scampering off by himself.

That pony would be very foolish and unreasoning if, from that time, he pinned his faith to the boy who had set him free, simply in order to be mean to the other boy. Father Abraham never wanted to be unnecessarily severe toward anybody. He loved all, black and white, North and South, but he felt, that the Union must be preserved and the slaves were freed as one means toward it. He did not intend, however, to give all Negroes the right to vote, but recommended that the most intelligent be given this privilege.

The moral is this:—Be free indeed. Study parties and public questions. Vote for the one, when you vote, whose policy you like the best now. Do not be blindly led in opposition to the white people around you. You were not brought to the South by Southerners originally. The slave trade was carried on principally by others and was protested against by Southern legislatures. The Southerners understand, and overlook your short comings in

a charitable manner, that the Northerners, for the most part, do not. The Southern people want you to become skilled work-men and work-women, and places are open for you. The Southerners are in my opinion, your best friends today.

Do not set your ideas in opposition to them. Be an intelligent Democrat, Republican, Populist, what ever you are, so that when you finally place your ballot in the ballot-box, it will not be the vote of a grateful freedman, but the thoughtful wish of an intelligent citizen.

WINTER HAVEN, FLA.

John R. Lynch Handsomely Recognized By President McKinley.

Among the appointments in the reorganized Regular Army none will give more satisfaction to the colored people of the country at large than that of Hon. John R. Lynch as paymaster with the rank of Captain. The career of Captain Lynch has been a remarkable one from the day he was elected a member of the Constitutional Convention of Mississippi in 1868 to



CAPT. JOHN R. LYNCH.

the present time. He was speaker of the House of Representatives of his State; he was three times elected a member of Congress; he was temporary chairman of the National Republican Convention held at Chicago in 1884; was appointed Fourth Auditor of United States Treasury by President Harrison; was made Major and paymaster of Volunteers in the Spanish-American war, and will now be continued in the Regular Army as paymaster with the rank of Captain—the first of his race to serve in such a capacity. This is a splendid career for the young colored men to contemplate. It should be an inspiration to them.

### THE RACE PROSPERING.

Afro-American Police, Business Men and Other Officials in a Busy Town in the Keystone State.

Germantown, Pennsylvania, Special.—The most popular colored business man about this little town is John S. Trower, who owns a few fine dwellings and a very imposing ice cream parlor and restaurant, on the Main street above Chettan ave. He serves quite a number of meals on the ships built by Cramps and Roach's ship yards built for the government. He is considered by some who knew him when he started out in business and they say he is a self-made man. We want such men all over this broad universe. Mr. Edward

Starkey does a good business as upholsterer at his residence at 118 W. Duval street.

We have three colored policeman and five barber shops. Mr. Togginton can be found at his old stand on the corner of Magnolia and East Rittenhouse sts., with a stock of groceries and provisions. He serves meals occasionally.

Mr. Combine is another of our store keepers on East Rittenhouse above Boynton street. We have one colored shoe maker and we trust his work will continue to bring him many patrons. We have also one physician and a large number of first class chefs; a few secret societies: Odd Fellows, Masons, the latter who celebrated their 30th anniversary on the 7th of February and covered themselves with glory. The True Reformers have several branches here. They gave a large entertainment on the 18th inst. The members of Haines St. church had an old folks concert at Chettan hall, on Chettan avenue the 18 inst. The stewardesses board under the leadership of Sister Davis contemplated having another supper soon. Bethel Sunday school and Jones Chapel Sunday school had the Easter exercises Sunday evening; both schools was well represented with the presence of their many parents and friends, and each school realized a snug sum collected for missionary purposes.

Brother Wood, ex-sextor of Bethel A. M. E. church, whose death had not been unexpected passed away very quietly last week. Dr. Yeocum preached his funeral Friday evening. His dear wife and a few friends escorted the body down to Virginia Tuesday morning for burial. Mr. Alexander Dresden while speaking to a friend last week were heard to make the remark that he would travel this summer with a team at \$25 per month and expenses. He will soon have the wedding bells a-ringing, but what will become of Miss Edith in his absence.

A. BAILESS.

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### NEGRO DIRECTORS

For the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company.

At a recent meeting of the Forum Club Messrs. George E. Temple, Peter H. Clark and David E. Gordon were nominated as three of the 90 candidates for directors of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. While the Negro Voters may not be able to elect these representative race candidates, we should, out of race pride, give them as large a complimentary vote as possible.—St. Louis Eagle.

### A Fact.

The Vero Dentist are extracting teeth without pain, making beautiful gold teeth and fillings and putting the Vero double suction in all their plates. Even with these advantage they can save you money. Call now. 12th and Pennsylvania ave., Over Davis' Hat Store. Hours 8 a. m. to 8 p. m. Sunday 9 a. m. to 4 p. m.

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