

# The Broad Ax

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

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## THE NEW DEMOCRACY.

Concluded.

All of the foregoing shows conclusively that the sentiment of the Northern people, as expressed by their laws, decisions and speeches, was not as friendly towards the colored race, as many of our people think today. But a large number of our colored people, say the Republican party, and the Federal army by virtue of Mr. Lincoln's emancipation proclamation, succeeded in liberating the slaves and, hence, as an act of gratitude, they should support that party with their votes, and for ever abhor the south and the Democratic party, because they were the former masters of the negro. The abolition of slavery in 1862-3, was the result of the fortunes of war. As we have already seen, Mr. Lincoln, seven years before his death, expressed sentiments of hostility to the equality of the races. The great Emancipation proclamation, which emanated from this noble man, was only intended as a war measure to aid in crowning the Northern army with the laurels of victory; even at that date the noted President, in order to achieve success in putting down the rebellion, proposed to the South, if they would lay down their arms and return to their allegiance to the Federal government, they would be permitted to retain all their slaves. Let us see what the history shows. (See "The American Conflict," by Horace Greeley, Vol. II, page 255. The excepted parts were: 13 parishes in Louisiana and the city of New Orleans; forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia; seven counties in Virginia, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth; and the States of Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Maryland and Delaware, and which excepted parts are for the present left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.)

From this, my friends, you could not infer that it was the design of the Republican party or of Mr. Lincoln, to free the slaves, but it was the fortunes of war, or the result of accident.

The Republican party was made up largely of the old Whig party, which had always been composed of men who believed slavery was not vice or an immoral institution. The Republican platform, in 1860, went no further than an opposition to the extension of slavery or its admission into the Territories. In

fact the platform went so far as to declare in the strongest language, the party's adherence to the doctrine of State Rights, and that each state should have absolute control over its own institutions. (See section 4 of platform.) It is evident from the foregoing, that the great Republican party was no especial friend of the colored race up to the emancipation of the slaves. It now remains for us to consider the treatment of the colored people by their supposed Northern friends from that time until the present. It is said that the new condition of liberty of the negro, awakened at once a flame of love and admiration on the part of the whites of the North, for their dark skinned brothers, and that hereafter the two races would be as a black Damon, and a white Pythias. I regret, however, to say that subsequent events have not verified this dream of fancy. The fabled "Forty acres of land and a blind mule," was never donated to the freedman, even in a figurative sense; instead we got the *Freedman's Bureau*, which became a savings bank for these children of the South and soon failed without assets, hereby these poor people lost hundreds of thousands of dollars; this was one Southern outrage, that was never used for political purposes by the G. O. P. The colored people in the South, after the war, were turned over to the tender mercies of the unscrupulous carpet-bagger, under whose influence they became a mere tool for those adventurers, who went South for the avowed purpose of oppressing the whites and of misguiding and robbing the blacks. During the period of reconstruction, and until 1876, the negroes, and their proxies, the carpet-baggers, held control over the greater portions of the Southern States; these poor ignorant people were used as a "cut's paw," for the consummation of a system of legislation and corrupt management of the affairs of the state, that ever disgraced or demoralized a civilized community; the effect of which was simply to degrade and debauch the helpless colored people. In 1876 a new regime came about, and the negro was once more put under the dominion of the old masters, the whites of the South. From that period on to the present, our race have made such advance and improvement, in morality, wealth and education, as to startle and surprise the civilized world. The negroes of the South today are prosperous and happy; they are the possessors of over two hundred millions worth of property; they have built churches, school houses and colleges; they have entered into all the various trades and professions; they fill many offices of trust and honor by virtue of the votes of white men; the latter being something which rarely occurs north of the Mason and Dixon line; notwithstanding the large Republican majorities in some of the Northern and New England States, and their professed love and regard for a colored man, not one has yet been chosen to represent them in Congress, or to fill any other high or important office. On the other hand the *New Democracy* of the South have kindly taken the negro by the hand, and since 1876, both races have been improving their condition step by step, and the whites have honored and loved the negro, and the negro, with natural instinct, love and respect their old masters and their descendants. There has been no such brutish oppression of the blacks in the South as we have heard. Most of these weird and horrible tales published in the Northern press, are for sensation and political effect.

Our race is improving more rap-

idly under *Democratic influence* than they ever did under *Republican protection*. No, my friends, the Democrats are not your natural foes and enemies, but they are your best friends. Why, under the present Democratic administration, there are over two thousand colored people employed in the various departments at Washington. President Cleveland has done what no Republican President dared to do, viz.: Appoint a colored minister to a *white republic*. He also appointed Mr. Taylor, a colored man, recorder of deeds for the District of Columbia; and even reinstated the colored coachman, Hawkins, who had been removed by Ben. Harrison, to make a place for an alien *Englishman*. In the far South, colored orators are stumping the country for Democracy, and are listened to by the cultured whites as well as the blacks. Only a few days ago, the eloquent and gifted colored speaker, Professor B. T. Washington, was invited to be the orator of the day at the opening ceremonies of the Atlanta Cotton exposition, away down in Georgia. His words of thrilling eloquence, like burning fire, awoke a storm of applause and enthusiasm from white and black, unprecedented in the South and unknown to the North. Read what the gentleman himself says about this incident, as published in one of your own home papers, and then tell me if there is not a *new Democracy and a new negro*.

I only wish we had more such men as Professor Washington, to warm the hearts and open the eyes of the colored men and women who are scattered throughout the North, and whose blood is chilled, and whose understanding is clouded by the bygone prejudice and wanton hypocrisy of the politician of the North. Let us, as colored people, take the picture of our past wrongs and turn its ugly features to the wall, and let us open our eyes to the radiant warmth of a new day.

Sorrow remaineth for the night, but joy cometh in the morning.

The progress and success of our race is now in our own hands, and if we would win in the struggle for existence, we must keep up with the spirit of the age, and show it to the world of mankind that we are a race of men, who can and will be as broad-minded and liberal to our fellow-men, as any people on earth.

Let us then be up and doing,  
With a heart for any fate,  
Still achieving, still pursuing,  
Learn to labor and to wait.

Our first duty is to banish from our minds every vestige of prejudice and ill feeling toward the Democracy and the white people of the South, on account of the old memories of the past. "Let the dead past bury its dead" and let us assimilate ourselves with the industrial world.

The opportunity to make our race great, and glorious, is at hand. Let us write our wrongs in water, and our deeds on brass and granite. One of the most dangerous species of thralldom and servitude, is that *mental* bondage that would chain the negro race to the Republican juggernaut car of prejudice; and cause them to cling to that party, for no other or better reason, than a sentiment of dead issues; or the recollection of a troubled dream. It is not expected that we all should be Democrats; nor is there any reason on earth why we should all be Republicans; to be a part of the great *American citizenship* should be the pride and ambition of every colored voter. And to attain this elevation, we must first throw off our own race prejudice. We no longer need the protection and guardianship of any

political party, and as long as we do rely on such a conservator, we simply admit our own weakness; and by implication become the wards of the party who will use our vote to advance their own ends. And at the same time despise our weakness and ignore our claims. If any of you doubt this statement, you need but to look around you, either in this city or in any other Republican community, and observe the insincerity of this party, toward the colored men, in the distribution of office and places of trust and honor. The colored race is now free and equal before the law, and will remain so forever, if they will not fetter themselves by alignment with the party, for the soul reason that they are *negroes*. Your destiny is in your own hands, and you must work out your own salvation, by the exercise and display of inherent, manly qualities.

The *New Democracy* stands with extended hands and open arms, inviting you to tread the pathway of human progress by her side. She asks you to receive the comfort and sympathy you so much need and desire; she desires that you should become intelligent, and study the public questions of the day, and act freely and conscientiously thereon. She wants you to be good and noble men and women, and to prosper and be happy, and leave behind you examples of virtue as imperishable as the mountain ranges that overshadow this beautiful valley. And finally she claims you as her child and brother; your home is with her children, your songs, your tears, your joys, have for generations been mingled with hers, and at last, your dust will be consigned to mother earth, side by side with the sons and daughters of this new Democracy, to wait the unknown events of time and eternity. Shall we not reach out our hands and accept this proffered gift? Shall we not thus encircle our race with the halo of sunshine and glory, which will linger with us to the end of time? Let us dedicate our strength anew, for the cause of liberty and justice, and at last,

There shall come a time when brotherhood  
Shows stronger than the narrow bonds,  
Which now distract the world. When  
canons  
Roar and trumpets blare no longer.  
When ironclads rust, and battle flags are  
Furled, when the bars of creed and  
speech,  
And race which sever, shall be fused in  
one  
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