

THE COLORED PEOPLE AND THE DISPATCH—OUR POSITION.

As assistant and local editor of the STATE JOURNAL, I have recently written several articles, reflecting upon the conduct of some colored people, which have been misunderstood so far as to induce many of them to become impressed with the idea that I was unfriendly to them.

In referring to the recent troubles in New York, it says: "The people of Richmond, who annually, on the third of April, quietly look on, while a crowd of ignorant, deluded, spiteful negroes celebrate the anniversary of the destruction of this city by fire, and rejoice over the downfall of a cause, which to them was once dear, cannot but condemn the conduct of the miserable fools in New York, who provoked the riot, &c."

From the character of those employed by this paper, I presume the writer of the article to be a Southern man, necessarily acquainted with the habits and character of the colored people. If this be true, there is no excuse for the apparent ignorance displayed in that article, or if not ignorance, the attempt to misrepresent the colored, and misguide those of the white race.

Its effects are damaging, inasmuch as they lead to bitter feelings and hatred between the two races. The colored man who reads what is here said of him, sees in the writer, an enemy, either ignorant of facts, or willing to misrepresent him, by accrediting him with motives never entertained or dreamed of.

My relations with the colored people of this city, is of such a character as to justify me in the belief, that there is not a colored man here, who ever participated in one of these celebrations, with any remembrance of the act.

Their rejoicings are attributable to the belief, that the surrender of Richmond secured them their freedom, beyond any effort of the South to restore them to slavery.

I have never yet heard the burning of Richmond charged upon any one else than the retreating Confederate forces, neither have I known the colored people to rejoice over any act of theirs, except the crowning one of surrendering to the government.

The people of Richmond may rest assured, in spite of the false teachings of the Dispatch, and politicians, that the colored people are rejoicing on such occasions, because of their freedom, and that the attributing of any other motive to them, is unjust, unwise, and false.

When our citizens realize this fact and newspapers cease their war upon a race of people just struggling into manhood, then will kindness abound; otherwise, a bitterness will exist between the two races, resulting in no possible good to either.

It is idle folly to tell me that a Virginian of proper spirit hates the negroes with whom he has been raised. I won't—I can't believe it; and yet, the two are not permitted to be at peace, because politicians have an end to accomplish by arraying them against each other.

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at 6 o'clock A. M., and arriving in Norfolk at 9 P. M. Leaving Norfolk at 9 o'clock on the 18th, the excursion party will arrive in Richmond at 3 o'clock.

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