

NEW NATIONAL ERA.

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COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE STATES AND TERRITORIES.

From Mississippi. HURRICANE MISS., Feb. 4, 1874.

DEAR SIR: A few days since I accepted an opportunity to visit Alcorn University, the seat of learning set apart for the colored youth of this State, I found the institution in such good working order and so well managed that I can not refrain from expressing it in the columns of your paper, for the benefit of those who are interested in our educational advancement.

From District of Columbia. It seems almost incredible how soon the remembrance and appreciation of services are done away with.

From New York. HOME-SICKNESS. OWING, N. Y., Feb. 25, 1873.

"Be it ever so humble, there is no place like home." Were, there ever truer words? Let me answer save those who have felt the searching pain of home-sickness.

From Missouri. KANSAS CITY, Feb. 21, 1874.

The recent discussions of the pending civil rights bill by our representatives in Congress, as also by newspapers and other periodicals in favor with the measure, has well-nigh exhausted the subject of every available and vulnerable point of attack.

From Pennsylvania. PHILADELPHIA, PA., Feb. 24, 1874.

SIR: At a meeting of the citizens of this city on the 21st, the following named gentlemen were elected officers: Mr. Wm. Whipper was chosen president, and Messrs. Thomas, Leis, Crowell, John W. Page, Samuel David, T. H. Dorsey, James Orborn, William W. Price, H. M. Cropper, L. N. Bedford, Alexander Coats, Dr. James H. Tunnell, F. P. Maine, J. H. Cooker, and James Inderster, vice presidents.

Whereas the individual pursuit of happiness stands forth in the great and matchless declaration of our common country as not only a self-evident but as a God-given right; and whereas the principle object of all Governments should be the security of such rights; and whereas our Republican Representatives in Congress now assembled seeing these rights denied to one-sixth of the whole population of the country are busily engaged in heated conflict with their old enemy in the nation's halls of legislation, be it

Resolved, therefore, That it is the plain duty of all genuine Republicans to sustain their Senators and Representatives by open and positive expressions of a sentiment demanding the immediate enactment of a law affording to each citizen ample and competent protection in the enjoyment of all his privileges and immunities.

Resolved, That in the light of past history and in view of current events no aid, either by vote or voice, can be expected from the ranks of those marshaled under whatever name who are not found within the fold of the Republican party.

Resolved, That in Pennsylvania prompt and speedy national interposition in behalf of civil rights is rendered all the more necessary because of the refusal of the late convention that framed our State constitution to adequately provide for the civil protection of all its inhabitants.

Resolved, That, being cognizant of the record of the Democratic party ever antagonistic to the cause of freedom and patriotism still unrepentant and unreformed, we are humiliated and pained to find any one of the number of those who have been, and still are, the objects of their persecution, ignorant or mercenary enough to not only join their defeated and disgraced ranks, but to sink to such a depth of degradation as to become their recruiting sergeants.

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named gentleman, maintaining at the same time the greatest coolness and self-possession. The late colored convention held in the city of Washington was enough to try the patience of Job; for there was a mass of crude, uncolored material that was not easily shaped, exceedingly difficult to manage, yet this disordered, disordered incongruity was handled and fashioned into form and system by the Hon. R. B. Elliott—a task more difficult than marshaling an army for an engagement, because in the latter case you have the aid and co-operation of others.

At every turn in the highway of life, at every cross-road of duty or enjoyment, we are rudely jostled aside, or met by the stern mandate of the "Thus far shalt thou come but no further" salutation of nearly every person we meet who can boast of a white face. We want, then, to be released from the bonds, to have the restrictions removed; to feel that the way is clear for our advancement in the path of duty, pleasure, or honor.

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that my cause was just. How well that argument was sustained, with what credit I acquiesced myself, let the flattering comments of the New York Tribune, the New York Herald, and other leading journals of the country prove. Suffice to say, that even where sympathy was withheld, respect was freely accorded.

But, fellow-citizens, it is unnecessary for me to recall to the incidents connected with the occasion on which I had the honor to address the First Congress. I am admonished of the fact that you are assembled to do me honor more particularly for my recent effort in the present Congress in favor of equal civil rights. It is, indeed, a pleasure to me to know that my remarks on that question on the 6th of January last, have met with the highest commendation throughout the country.

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ash. Yet the crops of the South, for the last four years, are more than equal in amount to the crops of any four years during the days of slavery. How confidently was it said that the colored man had no sense of prudence, no notion of his own interests, and that the sunshine of to-day, and laying up nothing for the morrow. Yet one of the most marked results of freedom has been the universal and unobscured desire of our race in these Southern States to secure homes and lands of their own. And here our reproach with the white man that you are not content to pass all our years in filling the lands of others. Thus, one by one, the colored race have shown to the world their right to a place among men; and our claim to such a place has been conceded at each step. Our present claim to complete civil rights and privileges will, I firmly believe, be soon granted.

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THEIR CONSEQUENT NEW DUTIES. But, fellow-citizens, rights impose duties. We are not now, as once we were, without responsibility because without power, without duties because without rights. In the name of God's providence, the political power of the State is in our hands. We are not without a vestige of political power, we are to-day the absolute political masters of South Carolina. Such a change is without parallel, not only in its rapidity, but in the magnitude of its responsibilities. It imposes upon us. Are we so ignorant as to imagine that God and the world will not hold us to account for our use of all these rights? Never was there a people on whom the eyes of the world were fixed, who have more than the people of South Carolina. This proud State—mother of statesmen, numbering among her sons the brightest minds and bravest hearts that our country can boast—has been committed to our keeping. Our future history will record our fidelity to these cardinal points: liberty, fraternity, justice, civil and political equality?

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Let them drive out the thieves. And now, fellow-citizens, I appeal to you, in the name of our true friends everywhere, to stand by the Republican Party, under whose auspices this noble cause has been achieved in the name of the colored race, in the name of patriotism, of justice, of honor, of self-interest as a race, in the name of the government, by the people, of the people, and for the people, to arouse yourselves to these great and sacred duties. I appeal to my fellow-Republicans of every race and nationality to arise in their strength and shake off the terrible incubus that weighs down our party, to struggle the poisonous virus that is sucking our life-blood, to remove the scolding reproach that is gnawing at the vitals of our body politic. It is to you more especially, my colored fellow-citizens that I at this time appeal. Our salvation and our freedom will come from our own hands. Only those who refuse to use their eyes will deny the evils of which I have spoken. Only those who refuse to consult the universal experience of the world can doubt that such a condition of affairs will come to an early and a disastrous end. My countrymen work its own suicide. I appeal to you all as Republicans. Our principles are true and undeniable. Within our own political organization let us seek out the needed reformation. At our side, asking us with all the moral support of our race, to stand by the lives, will be found the great leaders of the Republican Party, the President of the United States, the great chief and great chief, true always to civil rights and to the rights of the colored man, and to the best interests of our race, to stand by the best interests of our race; Morton, Davis, Butler, Lawrence, Hoar, all those honored names, who on the floor of Congress and throughout the country, have ever been swift to vindicate our rights and to advance our welfare. Fellow-citizens, the voices of such men must be heard.

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NEGROES AS LEGISLATORS.

The Test of their Ability in South Carolina.

Speech of Congressman R. B. Elliott in Congress.

FELLOW-CITIZENS—I can hardly find words wherewith to adequately express the sense of gratitude that my heart at this moment feels for the many kind sentiments of approval that have been uttered by you as the most august judiciary body on this continent, the African Congress. It was, indeed, a highly distinguished honor, an honor of which I was sensibly proud.

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OPINION BY THE NORTH.

To-day the North doubts whether we are bringing disgrace and destruction on our race by our inaction, and doubt if we are not doing more harm than good by our inaction. To-day they look to see whether we are capable of shaking off this monstrous burden of maladministration, and rising to a tolerable degree of regard for our common public interests. Mistakes, many and grievous may be made without impairing the confidence of our generous friends abroad; but it is not our errors and inexperience which threaten to ruin us; it is the present reckless disregard of public interest, the grossness of the machinery of the Government to personal ends, and the total lack of responsibility on the part of some of our public officers.

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THE STATE ADMINISTRATION.

"I should feel short of my duty on this occasion," he said, "if I did not draw your attention to the immediate necessity of a change in the character of our administration of the public affairs of this State. Fellow-citizens, I approach this subject from the standpoint of a strict Republican. If there be any man here, one of our race, who can show a longer, a more untiring or consistent service of the Republic, I challenge him to appear. What I say to-night, I say as a Republican standing on the identical platform which the Republican party solemnly put forth to the world as the expression of the political faith of the Republican party of South Carolina, on the 23d day of August, 1872. Upon that platform I stand. If others have wandered from it, I have not. The pledges contained in that platform are still binding on my conscience and honor. Those pledges I must and shall redouble."

IMPROVED CONDITION OF THE NEGROES.

Fellow-citizens, no man can exaggerate or overstate the critical character of our present political situation upon the fortunes of the colored race. In all our countries, in all its forms, at the hands of the white race of this country. We were that stricken and pitiable people whom the world seemed to have brought into existence solely for the service of the white races of the earth. The pathetic miseries, the hopeless subordination of our race, have formed one of the most deeply tragic features of the world's history. At last, the instincts of humanity, the divine sense of human brotherhood, has recognized us as men, entitled to the rights of men, worthy to be clothed with the powers and responsibilities of self-governing citizens. The vastness and rapidity of this change in our civil and political condition has no parallel. Many have, at every stage of our progress, predicted our failure. With what confidence did men foretell that the colored men of the South would not work except under the spur of the task-master's

HONESTY, ECONOMY, AND GOOD GOVERNMENT.

Above all things, fellow-citizens, as representing the colored race, let us remove this ineffable disgrace and stain from our record as a race. We may be ignorant we may be poor—but our party, intelligence and integrity enough to elect a good and honest government. There are men in our party who may be called to the helm of State, and who will faithfully carry out the pledges made in our party platform. Pledges are good, but we want men to carry them out. We want men who will keep them to the letter and in the spirit. Honesty, economy, good government—in city, county, and State—let this be our watchword, and our stern resolve. In that watchword we shall conquer, and with our victory will come a more cheerful acquiescence in our political supremacy, a more friendly and helpful spirit between our two races, a more rapid progress in all moral and material interests, and a final vindication of the capacity of the colored race to preserve their own rights and to respect the rights of others. To the accomplishment of such a work I pledge my most earnest efforts. With one heart, one aim, one determination, let us move forward to the re-establishment of an honest economical and respectable government in South Carolina.

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