

we shall not let the people in that state decide the matter for themselves.

Each community is better prepared to determine the depository of its political power than anybody else, and it is for the Legislature, for the people of Ohio to say who shall vote, and not for the Congress of the United States to say who shall vote in the ballot-box-to-morrow and vote directly for universal suffrage; but if a great majority of the people said no, I should consider it would be tyrannical in me to attempt to force such upon them without their will. It is a fundamental tenet of our government that anything wrong or unfair in that.

Mr. Douglas (smiling). A great deal that is wrong, Mr. President, with all respect.

The President. It is the people of the states that must for themselves determine this thing. I do not want to be engaged in a work that will commence a war of races. I want to begin the work of preparation, and the states, or the people in each community, if a man demeans himself well, and shows evidence that he is a man of high character, and give him every possible advantage when they become reconciled socially and politically to this state of things. Then will this new order of things work harmoniously; but forced upon the people before they are prepared for it, it will resist, and will work inharmoniously. I feel a conviction that driving this matter upon the people, upon the community, will result in the injury of both races, and the ruin of one or the other. God knows I have no desire but the good of the whole nation. I would if I were so that you would be able to do in the twinkling of an eye; but it is not in the nature of things, and I do not assume or pretend to be wiser than Providence, or stronger than the laws of nature.

Let us now seek to discover the laws governing this thing. There is a great law controlling it; it is an endeavor to find out what the law is, and conform our actions to it. All the details will then properly adjust themselves and work out well in the end.

God knows that anything I can do I will do. In the night I can do nothing, but in the day I can do anything I can do to elevate the races, to soften and ameliorate their condition, and give them every possible advantage when they become reconciled socially and politically to this state of things. I am glad to have met you, and thank you for the compliment you have paid me.

Mr. Douglas. I have to return to you our thanks, Mr. President, for so kindly granting us this interview. We did not come here expecting to argue this question with your Excellency, but simply to state what were our views and wishes in the premises. I would not have argued the question, and you would grant us permission, of course, we would endeavor to controvert some of the positions you have assumed.

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the Mexican Emperor must depend upon his own resources. President Johnson contradicts the story that a new form of government was contemplated for the Virginia. The Petersburg Express states that Mrs. Stonewall Jackson has written a letter, stating that the contributions that are called for in her behalf are given under a false impression, and it is inconsistent with her ideas of rectitude and honor to receive them. She begs that all efforts made to raise funds for her "relief" will be immediately stopped. The Virginia.

Washington, February 7, 1866.

The Norfolk Post.

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