

# The Colored American

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We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact, all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however, unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication must reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

Agents are wanted everywhere. Send or instructions.

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## THE COLORED AMERICAN,

EDWARD E. COOPER, MANAGER

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1900.

### MCKINLEY AND ROOSEVELT—THE SITUATION AS IT NOW STANDS.

The signal for action has been given, and the most interesting and important political struggle within the memory of men is "on" in earnest.

The republican party faces its opponents in this campaign as it always does, with calm but determined mien, and rests its case upon the magnificent record it has made for unvarying patriotism, unflinching adherence to sound fiscal policies and administrative reform in the four decades of its successful career. Supremely conscious of being in the right, the party of Lincoln and Grant, of Stevens, Sumner, Conkling and Morton, assumes the aggressive. It appeals to the sober judgment of the intelligent populace, and defies its enemies to show a semblance of cause why it should not be continued in power. Its platform is a model of courageous statement of issues—clear, concise and forcible—and places the national honor as the shibboleth around which all may rally with the full vigor and enthusiasm of a happy and contented people.

In this momentous battle the republican party accepts the mission carved out for it by destiny—the building of a Greater American Republic, yet preserving intact the beautiful architecture of our fathers. An expanding population, an expanding volume of trade, and an expanding capacity for development have demanded an expansion of area for American activities. The fortunes of war and circumstance have placed under our fostering care the direction of millions of human beings into the golden light of a higher civilization. Christianity and commerce under the gallant stars and stripes, travel hand in hand, and our flag has never been unfurled over any land without conferring individual benefits upon the natives and establishing loftier principles for the emulation of mankind everywhere. Abroad

the republican party stands for the logical expansion of an ambitious and progressive nation, broader markets for our products and more liberal opportunities for the employment of our God-given energies. At home, the republican party stands for an honest ballot and a fair count, for equality of citizenship, for the untrammelled development of manhood and the general education of the masses. Cannot such a reliable party, voicing such exalted principles, with the greatest warrant invite the suffrage of all right-thinking and patriotic people?

That the reply in November will be a hearty and convincing vote of confidence in the existing administration no careful student of current events will doubt for a moment. Yet the victory will not be an easy one. Its price must be hard and persistent work. There are powerful elements arrayed against us and we are called upon to meet the combined ingenuity of a vast horde of unscrupulous political vandals, hungry for the loaves and fishes of victory, led by the most dangerous and plausible demagogue the country has known since the days of Aaron Burr. Behind William Jennings Bryan is arrayed the same forces that sought to destroy the Union, and their malevolent purposes have not changed one whit since the Civil War, save that they are now endeavoring to receive by fraud, intimidation and low cunning, that which they failed to win by arms. The same principles for which Lee and Jackson fought for four long years and made desolate the homes of loyal patriots are again on trial to-day. Is there any one foolish enough to believe that the friends of honest government will stand idly by and see wrested from them the fruits of the conflict that was ended at Appomattox? No. The sons of liberty will stand united, as of old, and at the head of the column, as at Wagner and Pillow, will be found the Republic's sturdiest yeomanry—the Negro voters. They have not only the national honor and the "full dinner pail" at stake, but their very citizenship is in the balance. The Negro has never been false to the country's interests, he has never been mistaken in fixing his political allegiance, and he will not go wrong in this year of grace.

The republican standard-bearers are McKinley and Roosevelt. Both are typical Americans, and they at once idealize the policies of the party as set forth at Philadelphia, and represent in their splendid careers the pregnant possibilities that lie in store for capable and characterful American manhood. Both are worthy of the high stations for which they have been so enthusiastically named, and can be relied upon to carry out to the letter every pledge to which they stand committed.

William McKinley is a statesman. Under the severest scrutiny he measures well with the foremost leaders of national thought of any generation. Heading an administration beset by problems and responsibilities which fall to the lot of few executives, he has never misjudged a situation nor faltered in the discharge of what he conceived to be his duty. To him more than to any other agency is due our great prosperity-producing tariff system, our confidence-inspiring money standard and respect-compelling foreign policy. His wise generalship in the triumphant war with Spain, his steady hand in securing an advantageous treaty, his unyielding support of American authority in the Philippines

his liberal civil government in Hawaii, Porto Rico and Cuba, his prompt and able rescue of our legation at Peking, and his true Christian spirit in refusing to be a party to the dismemberment of the Chinese Empire, his earnest advocacy of arbitration as a means of adjusting labor troubles and fair play for citizens, regardless of race or color—all these and more, stamp William McKinley as a faithful and reliable chieftain. They entitle him to the grateful consideration of our whole land, and a re-election by popular acclaim.

Theodore Roosevelt is scarcely a less potent factor in public life than his distinguished premier on the ticket. He is known North, East, South and West, and wherever his name is heard, it rings responsive to an echo of reform which is as literally true of his character as it is alliterative in rhetorical construction. His life's central purpose has been to bring better conditions to mankind—first, by the strict enforcement of existing remedial laws, and second by the enactment of new legislation when the old was found inadequate to protect the public weal. The unthinking pretend to find amusement in his strenuous methods of obtaining results, but the jeer is hushed and its promoter is discredited when the harvest is gathered. The American instinct for manly courage, honesty, candor and uncompromising directness is quickened by the presence in politics of such rare figures as Theodore Roosevelt. Decisive in temperament, fearless in conception of right, dashing in the execution of a trust, and relentless in the pursuit of the evil-doer, this sturdy New Yorker arouses a storm of admiration everywhere he journeys, and has made the early apathy of the campaign a thing of history. He is easily the rival of Senator Hanna himself as "the feature" of the "stump" in the battle of the hour. His tour of the West is a continuous ovation, and though ruthlessly invading what Mr. Bryan is pleased to term his especial bailiwick, the brilliant hero of San Juan Hill has thus far been unable to find "the enemy's country." Col. Roosevelt is winning thousands of votes for the ticket by the force of an engaging personality and the able presentation of republican arguments. He is earning laurels in a comparatively new role, and all agree that he will make a capital Vice President.

The attitude of Mr. McKinley and Mr. Roosevelt on the Negro question is being discussed in some quarters—but the outcome cannot be other than to their advantage and to the credit of the party. We invite an investigation of this nature, for it brings out whole some truths that will set at rest any doubt as to the loyalty of the candidates toward the colored people. President McKinley's unequivocal denunciation of lynching in his inaugural, and repeated in a later message, effectually answers all who lay charge of lukewarmness at his door. These ringing utterances, coupled with his unprecedented recognition of the Negro in official stations and the appointment of the flower of Negro manhood in high army positions, emphasize his friendship beyond cavil, and denote his appreciation of our importance as a political quantity. Under no previous administration have the colored people drawn anything like their present compensation per annum, fully \$7,000,000.

The attempt to make capital of Col. Roosevelt's hasty description of the action of Negro soldiers at San Juan Hill is another trifling episode that

subsequent explanations have set aside. A full, ungarbled report of what Col. Roosevelt really said will show that he praised the valor of the colored soldier in the most laudatory terms. The record of the man is his best defense against charges of harboring color prejudice. It was Col. Roosevelt's broad policy as civil service commissioner of placing merit before color that made the civil service law worth something to the Negro. Hundreds of intelligent young colored men owe their lucrative positions held to-day to Col. Roosevelt's manly contention that a black skin should not be a bar to preferment if ability lie beneath it. Because of Governor Roosevelt's firm stand in favor of racial equality in New York's public school system, justice and fair play is the order in the educational institutions throughout the Empire State. These few instances are sufficient to prove that the complaints of disgruntled or corrupted politicians as to the attitude of McKinley and Roosevelt have no foundation in fact.

Four weeks of vigorous fighting yet remain. Every moment should be utilized to break down the skillfully constructed hypocrisies of the democratic party, and to bring votes in the pivotal States to McKinley and Roosevelt. There is too much at stake to quibble over minor details that can safely be left to the future. The Negro will cooperate with the mass to perpetuate national prosperity, sound financial and commercial expansion—but more than all—he will vote to preserve the liberties bequeathed by his fathers and cling to them as a sacred heritage. He knows that he wishes not only to gain the benefits guaranteed by republican success but to be saved from the disasters that a democratic victory imply. There is nothing for the black man in the triumph of Bryan and Tillman with their cohorts of red shirters and ballot thieves in the saddle. Under the broad canopy of President McKinley's principles, there is ample room to believe that in time all existing evils, will be wiped away, and newer blessings conferred. Under Bryan's sway—never.

The wise American—the wise Negro—the wise patriot—will cast his vote on November 6th for William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt.

To Contributors and Correspondents.

The demand for space in The Colored American at this time is very great, and it is not always convenient to print everything that is sent. The Colored American is a national and not a local newspaper and it endeavors to cover the whole country and not any one particular part of it. Contributors and correspondents whose matter is sometimes omitted in one issue may look for it in the next, provided said matter is acceptable. It is not necessary to write long and abusive letters to the editor and demand to know why such and such an article was not published. In matters of this kind, however, the largest complaints come from those who want the biggest share of space but who, as agents, sell the fewest number of copies. A little patience and consideration on the part of our contributors will save lots of worry, and a little effort on their part to get new cash subscribers and send in the cash, will make lots of sunshine for the printer and the box office will flourish like a green Bay tree."

Mrs. Helen A. Cook is recovering from quite a serious illness.