

1864

The Party of Freedom and its Candidates.: Duty of the Colored Voter.

Republican Congressional Committee

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/fvw-pamphlets>

Preferred Citation

[Physical ID#]: [Item Title], Frank and Virginia Williams Collection of Lincolniana, Mississippi State University Libraries.

This Pamphlet is brought to you for free and open access by the Frank and Virginia Williams Collection of Lincolniana at Scholars Junction. It has been accepted for inclusion in Pamphlets by an authorized administrator of Scholars Junction. For more information, please contact scholcomm@msstate.libanswers.com.

THE PARTY OF FREEDOM AND ITS CANDIDATES.

The Duty of the Colored Voter.

Published by the Union Republican Congressional Committee, Washington, D. C.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,



THE EMANCIPATOR,

Assassinated April 14, 1865.

ULYSSES S. GRANT,



HIS SUCCESSOR,

Will be elected President November 3, 1868.

The following is a dialogue between a newly-made citizen and a Radical Republican. The new voter is seeking light upon the subject of his political duties; his Radical friend gives him plain facts, and demonstrates clearly with which party all like him should act. It would be well for colored voters generally to seek out some tried Radical and question him upon all subjects about which they have any doubt:

THE DIALOGUE.

Question. With which party should the colored man vote?

Answer. The Union Republican party.

Q. Why should the colored man vote with that party?

A. Because that party made him free and has given him the right to vote.

Q. Was Mr. Lincoln a Republican?

A. He was a Republican President.

Q. Are Republicans in favor of universal freedom?

A. They are.

Q. Are the Radicals and Republicans one and the same party?

A. Yes; and they are in favor of freedom and universal justice.

Q. What is the meaning of the word Radical as applied to political parties and politicians?

A. It means one who is in favor of going to the root of things; who is thoroughly in earnest; who desired that slavery should be *abolished*, that every disability connected therewith should be *obliterated*, not only from national laws but from those of every State in the Union.

Q. To which party do the friends of the colored men in Congress belong?

A. To the Republican Party.

Q. What is a Democrat?

A. A member of that party which before the rebellion sustained every legislative act demanded by the slave-holders, such as the Fugitive Slave Law, and the attempt made to force slavery upon the Western Territories.

Q. Who said that "a negro had no rights that a white man was bound to respect"?

A. Chief Justice Taney, a Democrat.

Q. Was this sentiment approved by the Democracy?

A. It was; and by them only.

Q. Why did the Southern States rebel?

A. Because the Republican party in 1861 elected Abraham Lincoln President, who was opposed to the extension of slavery.

Q. What did they propose to do by rebellion?

A. Establish a government of their own; the corner-stone of which should be human slavery.

Q. Did any leading rebel make such a declaration?

A. Yes; Alexander H. Stephens, of Georgia, in a speech in May, 1861, at Montgomery, Alabama.

Q. What position did Mr. Stephens hold in the rebel Confederacy?

A. He was their Vice President.

Q. What was the position of the Democratic party during the war?

A. It opposed the war; declared Mr. Lincoln's management of it a failure; resisted every measure in Congress looking to emancipation, and denounced the Government for employing colored men as soldiers.

Q. What has that party done since the surrender of the rebels?

A. It has sustained Mr. Johnson in his efforts to restore your old masters to power in the country, and opposed every act for your benefit which the Republican Congress has adopted.

Q. Would the Democrats make slaves of the colored people again if they could?

A. It is fair to presume that they would, for they have opposed their freedom by every means, have always labored to extend slavery, and would now try to deprive them of the right to vote, which they have always opposed in Congress and in the various State Legislatures.

Q. Who abolished slavery in the District of Columbia?

A. A Republican Congress and Abraham Lincoln, a Republican President.

Q. Who freed the slaves in the South?

A. Abraham Lincoln, the Republican President, by proclamation.

Q. Who made colored men soldiers?

A. The Republican party.

Q. Who opposed this?

A. The Democrats.

Q. Who refused to recognize colored soldiers as prisoners of war?

A. The rebels.

Q. By whom were they murdered or used as slaves when captured?

A. By the rebel Government.

Q. What party sympathized with the rebel Government?

A. The Democracy.

Q. Who passed the Freedmen's Bureau bill?

A. A Republican Congress by more than

a two-thirds vote over the veto of Andrew Johnson, the leader of the Democratic or Conservative party.

Q. Who gave us the Civil Rights bill?

A. The same Republican Congress.

Q. What party gave us the right to vote?

A. The Republican party, through its majority in Congress.

Q. What has the Democratic, Conservative, or Copperhead party ever done for the colored people?

A. It has tried to keep them in slavery, and opposed giving them the benefit of the Freedmen's Bureau and Civil Rights bills, and the right to vote.

Q. Why cannot colored men support the Democratic party?

A. Because that party would disfranchise them, and, if possible, return them to slavery, and certainly keep them in an inferior position before the law.

Q. With whom do the disloyal white men of the South desire the colored men to vote?

A. With the Democratic party.

Q. Why do the Democrats pretend to be the best friends of colored men?

A. Because they contend they are of a lower race, and are, therefore, happier in an inferior position, or in slavery.

Q. How would it suit them to be served in the same manner?

A. They would not endure it. They call themselves a superior race of beings, and claim they are born your rulers.

Q. Why do they not do unto others as they would be done by?

A. Because they are devoid of principle, and destitute of all sense of justice where the colored man is concerned.

Q. Do all white persons belong to a party which would treat us in that way?

A. They do not. There are many who have stood up nobly for your rights, and who will aid you to the end; indeed, all true Republicans are such.

Q. Are there any white persons who have always contended for our liberty?

A. Yes; there are many such.

Q. To which party do these tried friends of ours now belong?

A. The Republican party.

Q. To what party do the white people of the South belong?

A. The larger portion belong to the Democratic party.

Q. Are the former slave-holders and leaders of the rebellion members of that party?

A. Most of them are; they would not regard you as having any rights if they were in power.

Q. Colored men should then vote with the Republican or Radical party?

A. They should, and shun the Democratic

party as they would the overseer's lash and the auction block.

Q. Has the Republican party deceived the colored people?

A. It has not. While the Democratic party has always been opposed to their freedom, their education, and their right to vote, the Republican party has maintained these rights.

Q. By whose exertion are we now being educated?

A. By the efforts of loyal teachers and through the benevolence of Republican friends.

Q. By whom have school-houses been burned, and our teachers persecuted?

A. By rebel friends of the Democratic party.

Q. Who passed the military Reconstruction acts?

A. The Republican majority in Congress.

Q. By whom have the reconstructed States been admitted to Congress, under the new free constitutions?

A. By the Republican party.

Q. What would the people think if the colored men voted with the Democratic party?

A. The people of the North would think that they did not fully understand their own rights nor the duties devolving on them; and the people of the South would proudly say: "We have always told you that the negro did not wish to be free."

Q. What use has been made of the money which the colored people of the Southern States have paid as taxes?

A. It has been used to establish schools for white children; to pay the expenses of making and executing laws in which the colored men have had no voice, and in endeavoring to have set aside the laws which give you the right to vote.

Q. We have been discharged from work because we voted with the Republicans. Who did it?

A. Your former masters, who are all Southern Democrats.

Q. How are we to live if they continue this course?

A. You must remember that this is a rule that works both ways. Your labor is as valuable to the employer as the wages paid are to you. That game cannot be continued. In any event, you must defend your vote as you would your freedom.

Q. Then you advise us to vote with the Republicans, and disregard the threats of our employers?

A. Most certainly I would. There is nothing dearer in life than liberty. To allow yourselves to be driven into voting against your convictions, is to accept degradation worse than slavery.

Q. The white people South say that northern Republicans do not care for the colored men only so far as they can use them to continue in political power. Is that true?

A. It is not.

Q. What is the reason that several of the northern States do not give us the right to vote?

A. Chiefly because they have in the past been controlled by the Democratic party. In the Western States where what are called the "Black Laws" have existed, which did not allow colored people to live in them, there are large bodies of whites who moved originally from the slave States, and carried the hatred and prejudices of slavery with them.

Q. What has the Republican party done in those States about such laws?

A. Abolished them as fast as it obtained power?

Q. To what is the Republican party now committed?

A. To equal rights for all men; to the advancement of labor and its elevation by just laws; to common schools, open to all; opposition to slavery in every form; protection to free speech and a free press; the maintenance of the rights of all men to vote and share in the Government under which they live; the perpetual preservation of the Federal Union, and of the national honor by faithfully discharging all obligations incurred in suppressing the late rebellion, and thereby enfranchising four million slaves.

Q. How does it propose to do these things?

A. By electing loyal men to office; by defending loyal State governments formed under and by authority of the Reconstruction laws, and above all by placing the Executive power of the General Government in the hands of those who favor the purposes of the Union Republican party.

Q. How is the latter to be accomplished?

A. By the election on Tuesday, the 3d day of November next, of GENERAL U. S. GRANT and HONORABLE SCHUYLER COLFAX, the nominees of the Republican party for those high offices, as President and Vice President of the United States. By their election, as well as the election of Republican Representatives to the Forty-first Congress, the Government will be placed in the hands of its friends, and, consequently, of your defenders and emancipators, for the Presidential term beginning the 4th day of March, 1869, and ending on the same date, 1873.

Q. What claim has GENERAL GRANT on the colored man?

A. He is the successful leader of the Union armies who fought for freedom against the rebel armies, that sought to maintain sla-

very. He defeated all the rebel Generals who opposed him, and finally received the surrender of the rebel army and its General-in-Chief, Robert E. Lee. Early in the war, General GRANT pronounced against slavery; declared that it must be destroyed in order to defeat the rebellion. He encouraged the enlistment of colored troops, and directed all officers to aid in the work. He always recognized their courage and gave them honorable mention. Since the rebellion closed, he has been in chief command of the army, and has been charged with the protection of the loyal people of the South. Under his direction reconstruction has succeeded to its present extent. He has always been in sympathy with the loyal majority of Congress, in opposition to the efforts of Andrew Johnson and the leaders of the Democratic party to restore the rebels to power, and thus virtually to re-enslave the freed people of the South.

Q. Who is SCHUTLER COLFAX?

A. He is Speaker of the House of Representatives, and has been a Republican member of Congress since 1855, having been first elected in opposition to the attempt then being made by the Democratic party to force slavery on Kansas, against the will of the people. Mr. COLFAX is an able man, upright and honorable in private character, an eloquent speaker, and a faithful and sagacious statesman, whose voice and vote has always been cast for equal rights for all men.

Q. Upon what platform, and where were they nominated?

A. They were nominated at Chicago, May 20, 1868, by the Republican National Convention, which contained delegates from all the States, among them being many colored men, representatives elected by yourselves. The platform embraces the following points:

1. Congratulates the country on the success of reconstruction, and declares it to be the duty of the Government to sustain the free institutions established under them.

2. Declares the guaranty by Congress in those laws of equal suffrage to be demanded alike by justice and the public safety.

3. Denounces the Democratic doctrine of repudiation of the public debt as a crime.

4, 5, and 6. Declares that taxation should be equalized and reduced; that the payment of the national debt should be extended over a fair time, the rate of interest be reduced as far as possible, and that the best way to do this is to preserve the public credit, so that capitalists will readily loan money on low rates.

7. Declares that the General Govern-

ment should be economically administered, and that the corruptions fostered by Andrew Johnson should be sternly repressed.

8. Deplores the untimely death of President Lincoln, and declares Andrew Johnson a betrayer of the trust reposed in him, and a usurper of unlawful power, for which he was properly impeached and pronounced guilty by the votes of thirty-five Senators.

9. Declares that all American citizens, whether native or foreign born, shall be properly protected when traveling in foreign countries.

10. Eulogizes the gallant soldiers who defended the Union, and declares that the widows and children of those who were slain in defense of freedom are the wards of the nation.

11. Declares admiration for those former rebels who in the Southern States have aided reconstruction, and favors the earliest removal of disqualifications imposed upon them "in the same measure as their spirit of loyalty will direct, and as may be consistent with the safety of the loyal people."

The 12th reads as follows:

Resolved, That we recognize the great principles laid down in the immortal Declaration of Independence as the true foundation of democratic government, and we hail with gladness every effort toward making these principles a living reality on every inch of American soil.

You have now before you the principles of the great Republican party; you have been with it through one campaign, and by your courage and energy have successfully reconstructed the former slave States on the basis of equal laws, education and liberty. Now you are asked to continue in the good work. The issue of this campaign for the election of GRANT and COLFAX will ensure, if you do your part well, the permanence of the governments you have helped to establish, and will preserve the liberties you know so well how to prize. Elect them and your rights are ensured. They are your friends. Their party, under the lead of the martyred Lincoln, proclaimed you free, and the Union armies, under the lead of General GRANT, have maintained and defended that freedom. See to it that your ballots go always in the same direction as their bullets. Organize for victory and the rebel Democracy will be defeated at the ballot-box on the next 3d of November as completely as General U. S. GRANT defeated Robert E. Lee and the rebel army at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, April 9, 1865.