

PALLADIUM OF LIBERTY.

"WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED FREE, AND EQUAL."

VOL. I.

COLUMBUS, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27th, 1848.

NO. 1.

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ADDRESS TO THE CITIZENS OF OHIO OUTLINES OF OHIO.

The Committee appointed by a Convention of the colored people of this State, held in the city of Columbus, on the 10th, 11th and 12th days of August, would respectfully address you on certain points, which are to them of the utmost importance. We would briefly call your attention to our condition among you; and to the unjust and impolitic course which is pursued toward us; a course which grants us the name of freemen, but robs us of our rights—which endeavors to blot out our prospects, and stifles every effort which we put forth for our moral and intellectual advancement. We would ask you, whether this course is in accordance with the principles which lie at the foundation of this government, and which you, as Americans, are bound to support.

The prejudice of which we are the objects, is the most vindictive, cruel, and unprecedented of the age, in an enlightened and christianized country; being interwoven throughout the ramifications of the civil, political, social and religious institutions. Thus the law, which should constitute the bulwark of our liberties, is employed as the instrument to hunt us down to degradation and shame. By it we have been deprived of our oath in courts of justice; an oath, by the admission of which would be acknowledged that we are possessors of reason, and that the love of truth is as much implanted in our being, as it is in any other portion of the human family. Whilst foreigners, after a short sojourn in our country, have a voice in electing our rulers, we, native Americans and possessors of the soil, are forbidden by it, to manifest our interest in the welfare of our country, by depositing our vote in the ballot box. By it, our children are shut out from the common schools, for no other cause than, that God has enclosed their minds in forms tinged with African blood, they are "debarred all knowledge, both of the great principles which declare God's goodness, and of the sublime truths which science reveals to man. Could it wrest the volumes of Nature from our grasp, it would consign us to a condition of ignorance even of the immortal destiny that awaits us in another state of existence.

Let us now see how this act of legislation accords with the avowed principles of our government; and we would here remark emphatically, that we do not war with those principles, for we are convinced that were they carried out, this Union would indeed, become what it professes to be, the most perfect government ever devised by man. We cannot call in question the soundness of those principles, for we do not believe that the earth has ever seen such a master piece of philanthropy, as the declaration of independence—that glorious summary of principle, whose adoption gave to this country national existence.

When we speak of the Declaration of Independence, we do not mean that unalloyed construction of it which would bound "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," by color, and mete out equality to the enjoyment of a few favored portions of the human race; but the Declaration itself, pure and unspiced as it was when it received the signatures of the immortal 56. With regard to those great men and others, who first espoused and gave utterance to those principles, we dare not suspect pretended. It would be a climax of folly, to suppose that after American valor had armed American blood had stained American soil, at a period when every energy was aroused—every nerve strained and strung for action, and every intellect strengthened by fear of the deprivation of rights most precious, men would be found down calmly, and assume themselves by indulging in idle phantasies, and giving birth to unmeaning theories.

But while we indorse the sincerity of those men, and the correctness of their principles, we cannot but declare, that the policy so long pursued towards us by the government, is utterly at variance with those principles. In this great charter of liberty, just now referred to, are contained certain self-evident truths, upon which, both political and social, are based. The first of these, is, that "All men are created equal." In this truth we most heartily acquiesce. WE ARE MEN: all the heaven-born attributes of humanity find place in our being, and are cherished by us with the same fond regard that any other beings who claim the same hatred of oppression, and ardent longing after all those rights, the enjoyment and proper use of which, render them worthy of the association and respect of his fellow-men. These traits are as characteristic of us as they are of any others. The divine nature living and burning within us, inspiring us with high hopes, and giving birth to lofty aspirations, tell us that we too, are entitled to all the privileges of humanity. But while our claim to manhood is so clearly pointed out—while the great truth that equality is the birthright of all men, as well, and so extensively known, has its practical existence with regard to us? Our disfranchisement—the warring from us our oath—the finger of scorn continually pointed at us—the obloquy heaped upon our heads, eloquently and most emphatically answer, no!—It is true that a portion of the civil polity is based upon our recognition as such. Let one of us violate any of the statutes made for the government of men, the preservation of order, and the protection of property in the community, and he is immediately summoned before a jury of his countrymen, and if convicted, suffers the penalty awarded by the offended laws.

Another of the truths deemed self-evident is, that Men "are endowed with certain inalienable rights," to wit: "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." We would ask you, citizens of Ohio, in the spirit of candor and kindness, to inquire reflectively, whether or not your policy does not tear away from us those heaven granted endowments? Is life secure, is liberty inviolate, is the pursuit of happiness left open to us, when in every possible case, the hand of the ruffian can be raised against our existence with impunity; when the legislature of adjoining states hesitate not to enact laws which militate against freedom, and the laws of our own state so far from affording security, may be construed to deprive us of the enjoyment of liberty, life, and under which laws the most dear and sacred relations in life can be wanionly and fearlessly trampled upon? Again the great magna charta of your government lays down the principle that, to secure those (inalienable) rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the governed. Now the laws of our state which so sorely oppress us, and which degrade you in the view of all true lovers of liberty throughout the civilized world, were not only passed without our consent, but some of them for the repeal of which we have urged entreaty, still remain a disgrace to your statute book, and a mark for the honest indignation of every true philanthropist.

Such, citizens of Ohio, is the position, the discordant position which your political institutions hold with reference to a few of the principles deemed so clear and incontrovertible by yourselves, by your Fathers, and by us. Yet, which we later, and in defiance of the gross ignorance prevailing among us, the legitimate consequence of that oppression which has so long degraded us in the state, we declare it to be our FIXED AND ETERNAL RESOLVE to do every thing in our power which will conduce to our becoming respectable, intelligent, and useful citizens of our beloved country. As men, we know this to be our duty; but this is not sufficient to render us contented. WE ARE AMERICANS; and as Americans, we desire all the rights and immunities of American Citizens. We love the land of our birth. Gold finer sensibilities of human nature, who can look with an eye of indifference upon the property or adversity of his native country.

"The Savage loves his native shore,
Though rude the soil and chill the air."
and we, too, cannot be inspired by any other feeling than that of affection, when we behold and reflect on the scenes, in the midst of which we were born and nurtured. We are convinced that our destinies are interwoven with those of your own institutions, and although pseudo philanthropy may rear its head in a thousand forms, we are confident, that as a people, we shall continue to live and die in the midst of you.

Give us, fellow countrymen, citizenship in fact, and America will not rank among her friends and supporters, more firm, more patriotic, more devoted men to her true interests, in peace and in war, than her colored sons.

To you, citizens of Ohio, we appeal, to co-operate with us in our efforts, to obtain these rights on

which we, as Americans and Ohioans, are entitled. We ask nothing extraordinary—nothing unreasonable. We ask only for the rights God has given, and which man should enjoy. You have seen that there are laws existing in this State, at war with the Declaration of Independence and with all the great precepts of the Christian religion, as well as with every sound system of ethics, and the common principles of humanity. We call upon you to recognize another truth contained in that document, the polestar of American liberty, that "whenever any form of government becomes destructive of the rights of the people to alter or abolish it." Now we do not ask you to abolish your form of government; but we ask that you would repeal all laws and parts of laws that would degrade us on that account. Do this and you will make manifest to the world your love of justice, your hatred of oppression, and your determination to preserve a strict adherence to the great principles of your fathers.

A. M. SUMNER,
G. B. VASHON,
W. F. NEWMAN,
L. WATSON.

PALLADIUM OF LIBERTY.

COLUMBUS, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27, 1843.

PUBLIC MEETING.
Agreeable to previous notice a meeting of colored citizens of Columbus, was held in the Hall of the city, on Tuesday evening, Nov. 28, 1843. The meeting was called to order, by appointing R. D. Kenney chairman, and William Gay secretary. The object of the meeting was stated by D. Jenkins, which was—that we establish a weekly newspaper for an organ of the colored people, and the same to be printed in this city, and after some very weighty remarks, it was approved, and on motion, a committee of five was appointed to advise means best calculated to carry forward and establish a paper, and report at a subsequent meeting. The following gentlemen were then appointed, D. Jenkins, G. W. Stanton, L. Jenkins, Wm. Copeland, and J. Poindester. The meeting then adjourned to meet in the second Baptist church, on Monday evening, Dec. 4th, at 7 o'clock.

R. D. KENNEY, Chairman.
Wm. Gay, Secretary.

DECEMBER 4th, 1843.
Pursuant to adjournment the citizens of Columbus met in the second Baptist church. The hour having arrived, and a large and respectable number of persons being present, Mr. Kenney, (in the chair,) called the meeting to order. The former secretary not being present, Mr. G. W. Hoots was appointed, who proceeded to read the proceedings of the last meeting, and the same was approved. It was then moved that gentlemen from other towns be invited to participate in the meeting, which was agreed to.

On motion, the committee that was previously appointed, made a report, which was submitted to the meeting, and unanimously adopted. Whatsoever, in all eyes of the world, have emerged from their long and dreary slumber, in proportion as they exercise their own belief, and

Whereas, we have been comparatively inactive and dormant on our part, in vindicating our rights, and exposing our wrongs which are most unjustly alleged against us. And
Whereas, the Constitution of the United States guarantees to us these privileges and many other similar, therefore—
Resolved, That we think it a duty we owe to ourselves, posterity and to our God, to use all lawful means in promoting the greatest good of all—and that we know of no better way than by the establishment of a permanent paper.
Resolved, That as we are anxious-leaders of three millions of our brethren in the south, it behooves us to use all constitutional means in our power to ameliorate their condition.
Resolved, That next to the gospel of our blessed Lord and Savior, that the freedom of speech, the press, and the right of petition are the highest possible forms of moral elevation.

Resolved, That we establish a weekly paper, that shall be called the

PALLADIUM OF LIBERTY.
"We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created free and equal."

This paper shall be edited by an Executive Committee of fifteen persons, residing in different parts of the State, a majority of whom shall reside at the place of publication. It shall be devoted to the interests of the people generally and not to any exclusive set of individuals.

All communications intended for the paper must be addressed to the chairman of the Committee, post paid.

Any person obtaining eight new subscribers, and forwarding the money for the same shall be entitled to one copy gratis.

Terms—The paper will be published weekly, at 75 cents per annum, to be paid invariably in advance.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Columbus—D. Jenkins, Chairman, L. D. Taylor, E. Fields, L. Jenkins, A. M. Taylor, G. W. Stanton, D. Burner, J. Poindester.
Cincinnati—A. M. Sumner, Wm. M. Yancy, W. W. Watson.
Cleveland—H. D. Kenney.
Chillicothe—C. Langton.
Zanesville—W. Glassney.
Lancaster—N. Smith.

AGENTS.

We have named a large number of gentlemen for Local and Traveling Agents. We will give our reasons for so doing. As this paper is of a general nature, and for the benefit of the whole people, the Committee thought it expedient to select the number that will be found below, with the privilege, at their own discretion, of acting either as local or traveling Agents, and as we have proved their names, we hope each one will act.

LOCAL AGENTS.

Dayton, O.—T. Jefferson.
Springfield—Wm. Piles, R. Piles.
Circleville—L. Adams, A. Kane.
Chillicothe—R. W. Chancellor, Jas. Leach, U. Moody.
Dover—Wm. Scott.
Cincinnati—R. W. Glassney, H. Numan.

Hillsboro—J. Taylor, N. Taylor.
Steubenville—Wm. Ferris.
Newark—W. Jenkins, H. Robinson.
Cleveland—J. Malvin, J. L. Watson.
Dublin—S. White, Jr.
Yonick—W. Roberts.
Logan county—R. Antie.
Mt. Vernon—O. Martin.
Trenton, Jefferson co.—Jas. Simpson.
Mt. Pleasant—Elijah Sawyer.
Warren, Trumbull co.—A. Moore.
Gallipolis—H. Bell, J. Gre.
Jackson, Jackson co.—N. Nokes.
Lohanon—T. Benford.
Massillon—Jas. Thompson.
Barnesville—A. Harper.
Obolville—A. Jones, Wm. Numan.
Lower Sandusky—A. Winfield.
Lockhart—E. C. Tyrer.
Morgan county—Lloyd E. Guy.
Putnam—J. Thomas.
New York City—Chas. B. Ray, T. S. Wright.
Troy, N. Y.—H. H. Garrett.
Utica, N. Y.—T. Woodson, James Fountain.
Geneva, N. Y.—J. W. Duffin.
Rochester, N. Y.—James Sharp.
Batavia, N. Y.—Wm. Johnson.
Brooklyn, N. Y.—A. Peck.
Lockport, N. Y.—A. Outley.
Buffalo, N. Y.—W. W. Brown, A. H. Francis.
Boston, Mass.—J. T. Hilton.
Pittsburg, Pa.—J. B. Vashon.
Madison, Ia.—A. Diccan.
Indianapolis, Ia.—J. G. Britton.
Detroit, Mich.—R. Banks, W. C. Monroe.

TRAVELING AGENTS.

Cincinnati—Rev. C. Stichel, Rev. M. M. Clark.
Springfield—Rev. T. Roberts.
Zanesville—Rev. Geo. Coleman.
Sardinia—Rev. E. Cumberland, Rev. Fox.
Xenia—Rev. D. Winslow.
Logan county—Rev. M. T. Numan.
Hamilton—Rev. Wm. Yancy.
Massillon—Rev. J. Thomas.
Columbus—Rev. W. Shelton, Rev. T. Lawrence.
Mt. Pleasant—Rev. Wm. Numan.
Jackson county—Rev. T. Woodson.

OUR COURSE.

It is one of much importance, as we are oppressed as to our condition as a people. We are born citizens of these United States, therefore, as good citizens, we should adhere to all the mandates of the law, and in order to effect the great end we have in view, as a people, we must first be in the great work of reform—when we speak of reform, we mean we must speak as one man. We have been too long looking at small things, each wishing to have things his own way. To illustrate this fact, look at the two great political parties of the United States, they differ in some points, yet when called upon to act on an important subject, they unite to effect the end they have in view.
Here we are, just in a situation that calls aloud to all, for some combined system of action, and for this purpose we have been induced to undertake the publication of this paper, that we may commence speaking through the press. It may be urged by some that a press cannot effect any thing, but we look to the press for future good,—by the machinery of the press we can almost speak, and hope through it to effect much in ameliorate our condition. And as we have commenced do not let us look back as did Lot's wife, who was turned to a pillar of salt by disobedience. Let us press on, step by step, and use the sword of truth, which is mighty and must prevail.
It may also be urged by some, that we ought to have a stationary Editor,—to this, we shall say but little, but are unwilling to admit it as a sufficient reason why we should wait. The Committee are willing to undertake the management of this paper, and hope the arrangement which they propose will not prevent any one from siding in this great work.
Send in your communications for the press. The Committee believe that a paper conducted by an arrangement of this kind will be crowned with the best of consequences.

PETITION PRESENTED.

On Friday the 15th inst. Mr. White of Lick presented to the Legislature, the petition of 90 citizens of color of Franklin county, praying for the repeal of certain laws therein named.
On the 16th, a bill was introduced by Mr. Phelps, and read the first time, to repeal the 4th section of the act of 1837. Next is the day of our night drawing. God is hastening, on the time for better things.

TO BE HUNG.

To be hung on the 10th of February 1844, a colored woman that has been found guilty of murdering a white woman in the Penitentiary, by the assistance of another colored woman. The trial of the last named person was put off until the next session of the Supreme Court. When the Judge pronounced the sentence on her, it was indeed an affecting scene. She wept, almost every eye was suffused in tears while she appeared to be unmoved. She stated that she had nothing more to say, as she knew she would be hung.

A MAN BY THE NAME OF CARK HAS ALSO BEEN SENTENCED TO BE HUNG THE SAME DAY, FOR KILLING ONE OF THE GUARD AT THE PRISON.

FORM OF A PETITION.

To the Honorable General Assembly of the State of Ohio.

"We, the undersigned colored citizens of the county of _____ and State of Ohio, do hereby petition your honorable body, to abrogate all those laws in said State, that make a distinction on account of color, and your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray."

OHIO LEGISLATURE.

The Committee issued, as far as possible, to publish as much of the proceedings of this body as they have been in session about three weeks, but have done but little, the most of the time has

been occupied in discussing a bill of retrenchment.

THANKSGIVING DAY.

Thursday the 14th, being the day commemorated by the Governor as a day of Thanksgiving, was observed by the citizens of Columbus with great reverence, which will do honor to the people. At the hour of 10 o'clock, the bells commenced ringing to call the numerous crowd to church to hear the good news of a risen Savior.

On the 14th Ex-Vice President Johnson was in our city and visited both branches of our Assembly.

CONGRESS.

It is somewhat strange to us, to see that the Speakers chair of the Congress of the United States, has been so long filled by Southern men. From 1810 to 1843, a period of 33 years, the South has only filled that station three years, and it became more and more a source of mortification to the North, until the late election of 1842, when the North won a majority of 47 over the South. We cannot condemn the South for the stations that have been conferred on her, for she does not agree with the North when she refuses to put her men in such stations. This may be handed down to posterity for examination. We would like to see all parts of the Union share equally in all the stations in the gift of the people.

THE PALLADIUM OF LIBERTY.

It is in eighteen hundred and forty three, when we present the Palladium of Liberty; it was not got up on speculation, but to "instruct the colored peoples condition."

This paper has been presented to us by the colored people of the "Palladium of Liberty." By the force of the Palladium of Liberty.

Then we will praise Jehovah's name, That we the Africans are proclaiming, That we will not be held enslaved By barbarous minds of men enraged.

We'll not see the master's mother mourn— Her children from her bosom torn. We will not see them drag'd into slavery, In all the scenes of agony.

G. W. ROOPE.

A CHEROKEE NEWSPAPER.

We learn from the Arkansas Intelligence, that the Cherokee Council have provided by law for the publication of a newspaper to be called the "Cherokee Advocate," to be printed in the English and Cherokee languages. The celebrated Wm. Ross is to be the Editor.

FATHER MILLER is creating quite a sensation in Buffalo. The Gazette says:—"The theatre pit to gallery, and hundreds could not find admittance. But notwithstanding this large and miscellaneous audience, there was perfect order and decorum throughout."

There is to be a convention at Columbus, Ohio, on the 1st Tuesday in January, to devise means for the better observance of the Christian Sabbath.

of other that reach in height as far as from Saturn to the fixed stars, and run abroad almost to infinity, our imagination finds its capacity filled with an immense prospect, and puts itself upon the stretch to comprehend it.

But if we rise yet higher and consider the fixed stars, as so many vast oceans of flame, and each one of them attended with a different set of planets, and still discover new firmaments, and new lights, which are sunk so far in those unfathomable depths of ether as not to be seen by the largest of our telescopes, we are lost in a labyrinth of suns and worlds, and confounded with the immensity and magnificence of nature.

DIED.—In this city on the 19th inst, at 9 o'clock, John Higginbottom, in the 14th year of his age.

POETRY.

O why are our troubles growing! Why this increase of our pain! Must our tears, now cease their flowing! Must we always thus complain!

Why Almighty God of nature Doth the oppressor tyrannize! Why with pride distort each feature— With indifference bear our sighs!

But to reason is to suffer— Power is law and justice too. We must yield the christian right, Though deprived of our due.

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