

## Negro Equality.

This is a hackneyed subject; - we have ransacked our dictionary for a term, - as comprehensive, - as expressive as that heading this article. The result has been that the title has been used as we see it every day, in lieu of a better. After four years of war and unparalleled suffering, desolation, and expense of men and means we see what perhaps never before occurred in history. The vanquished are not overthrown, - the conquered are still independent - are still unconquered.

The very country of the enemy was traversed through and through in every direction, - their strongholds have yielded to loyal valor, and their leader now lies incarcerated at the

mercy of our government. The Constitution binds our hands, so we are told, and our enemies; they, who had forfeited their citizenship and privileges as <sup>much</sup> as had they been Tukes or the most zealous admirer of Lord Derby's policy, step in with the Constitution in their hands, and our Government is powerless, at least, so we are told by some reasoners. How much we may regret that these same people were not originally constructed more Constitutionally, as it might be inferred that, Americans were made expressly for the law, and not that the "immortal document" was made for the benefit of, and by, mortals. By the war six millions of human beings, degraded by a long life time of Slavery, were manumitted, and now stand at the bar of Justice seeking their Rights, - Freedom in its fullest acceptation, - freedom of hand and mind, - freedom in all its blessed



reality and purity. Let us examine their  
claims in a light different from what  
we usually see and hear this important  
question discussed. Let us examine this  
subject from the high standpoint of  
justice and Truth, and not, holding  
our noses as they, approach a topic  
to some ears so revolting, - so disgusting.  
Let us not consider this important matter  
from the usual degraded standard, and  
that, too, from whom we should expect  
better things. This is simply a question  
of Justice, - Justice in its broadest, fullest,  
truest acceptance, and from this point alone  
can we rightly judge. It is a shame in  
this 19<sup>th</sup> century that there are those who  
fail to see facts as they really are, and,  
"seeing as through a glass darkly," inves-  
tigate truth from the basis of selfish  
feeling, disgusting prejudice, and mean



misanthropy: Can men be elevated by degrading influences? or do we question whether there is any work, any responsibility for ourselves in the improvement and civilization of the Negro? To me, the professedly enlightened people of America, fear lest our efforts should be misinterpreted, and the inferior race overwhelm and compete with and surpass us in the unequal strife for the mastery? Is the servant greater than his lord? or the taught superior to the teacher? Let us quit such mean propositions, and acting the part of the good Samaritan, bind up the wounds and leave the issue with the future and to God.

We are startled with the delusive hallucination of Social equality and Black competition of Labor. If any one chooses to marry a partner of another



race and color do our interests suffer?  
or need we interfere further than to note  
this remarkable evidence of bad taste?  
and bad taste surely is not a very  
uncommon phenomenon. Why such a  
Northern howl against so ancient a  
Southern institution? When brains and  
abilities are the only prerequisites for position  
and dignity, how less than foolish these  
arguments, - how futile, in our day of  
strikes and amid the discussions on the  
eight hour labor system, to bring forward  
the plea that America is full of laborers,  
or that the workmen of America fear com-  
petition in the unfair strife. If so let  
them be the sufferers. When the resources  
of our country are partly developed - the  
coal of Pennsylvania, the gold of the  
Pacific Coast, and the wealth of the  
great Mississippi valley, - then will it



do to stay the influx of settlers and work  
us or to talk of competition in labor.

There can be no such competition, as the  
avenues of trade, & commerce, and of toil  
are so numerous as to defy a clashing  
of interests. There is no end to the demand  
for men in a country so large and with  
advantages so peculiar.

It is not only our duty but our interests  
demand that we should enfranchise the Negro.  
We are elevating him, we are conferring upon him  
privileges, which demand a corresponding  
effort on his part to fully understand and  
appreciate his responsibilities and obligations,  
and be it said to his credit, that he is by  
nature imitative and, what is more, when  
unperverted and unbiassed chooses the best  
characters for his models. We are throwing a  
powerful influence ~~into~~ the freedman's  
hand - such he is, for such Lincoln



declared him when living, let no man  
done by counsel or thought or edict revoke  
the decree now the martyr has sealed it  
with his blood. He is a free citizen and  
with us it is to decide his destiny. The  
Government prescribed the qualifications  
of white voters and can it not now  
strike the arrogant adjective from its  
code. Three fifths of the negro has been political  
capital for nearly a century, - in the name of all  
that's right, now that the other two fifths are  
illegal merchandise, confer upon him his manhood  
and place the ballot into his hands for  
surely he could not abuse it more than  
his constituted deputy has done for years.

Ignorance can be no objection when we com-  
pare men with men. Three fourths of the  
poor whites can not read nor write, neither  
do they surpass their colored prototypes in  
a single good quality. Let us no longer suffer



constitutional factions in our government but rather so teach and enlighten those, who falter and who may be the victims of tyranny and slavery, that the day may soon come when constitutional units shall be the only recognized citizens of our land. A late writer asserts that "the elective power of a 'poor white' of the South is equal to the influence of three voters at the North," under the present system. No one dares complain of this. This is a Southern institution and its mere existence and practice in that latitude has rendered it a sacred one, it is a privilege of our "Erving Brothers" and we must be quiet and submit to the iniquitous decree. How long shall we be deluded by this false reasoning? Well may we hope for better times when traitors shall be taught at least to hold their tongues, and the one-sided philanthropist to forsake his leaky ship. Let them, who expect



one class of society to prosper in the highest degree, while the other is in distress, try whether one side of their faces can smile while the other side is pinched" and thus said they best see and experience the utter impracticability and narrowness of their theories. But as we unite Ohio, and the Great West, Pennsylvania, and the Border States are assuring us of a victorious conflict of free principles. They are but sealing the victories of the battle-field and we may hope that the "Palmetto State" of the North will in a few weeks hand in her decision and assent to the immutable decree - Justice to all and Favor to none, is the surest - the only rule of Right.