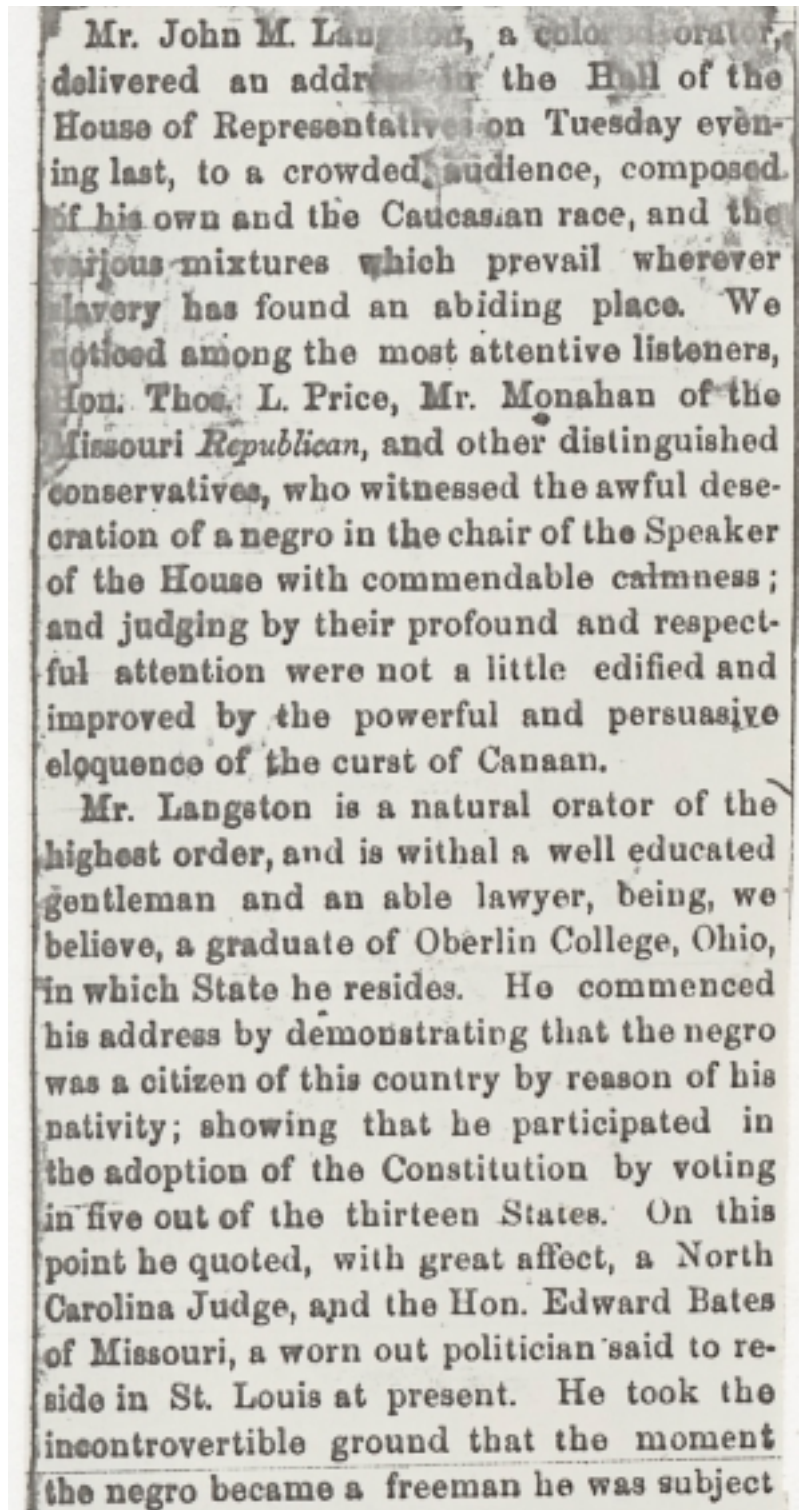


Mr. John M. Langston, a colored orator, delivered an address in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Tuesday evening last, to a crowded audience, composed of his own and the Caucasian race, and the various mixtures which prevail wherever slavery has found an abiding place. We noticed among the most attentive listeners, Hon. Thos. L. Price, Mr. Monahan of the *Missouri Republican*, and other distinguished conservatives, who witnessed the awful desecration of a negro in the chair of the Speaker of the House with commendable calmness; and judging by their profound and respectful attention were not a little edified and improved by the powerful and persuasive eloquence of the curst of Canaan.

Mr. Langston is a natural orator of the highest order, and is withal a well educated gentleman and an able lawyer, being, we believe, a graduate of Oberlin College, Ohio, in which State he resides. He commenced his address by demonstrating that the negro was a citizen of this country by reason of his nativity; showing that he participated in the adoption of the Constitution by voting in five out of the thirteen States. On this point he quoted, with great affect, a North Carolina Judge, and the Hon. Edward Bates of Missouri, a worn out politician said to reside in St. Louis at present. He took the incontrovertible ground that the moment the negro became a freeman he was subject



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to taxation and representation, and that the two were inseparable. In this connexion he exhorted his colored brethren to pay their taxes and be proud of the privilege. He demanded that they should be taxed. He would as soon request to be excused from voting on account of his color as to be exempted from the payment of taxes for the same reason. He believed that with a faithful payment of taxes by colored citizens, the attendant privilege of voting would soon follow.

After demonstrating that the colored man is a citizen, recognized as such by the precepts and practice of the fathers of the Republic, and showing that the request of the negro for suffrage was no new-fangled idea, but simply a return to the old-doctrines of the early times, he proceeded to speak of the patriotism of the negro. He said the negro had always been true to the country. The first victim of the revolutionary war was a negro, whose blood was shed in the streets of Boston by British soldiers. A negro shot Major Pitcairn on the breastworks at Bunker Hill, and negroes had been faithful to the cause of the colonies throughout the doubtful struggle. Coming down to the war of 1812 negroes were found in the armies of *their* country, and in no case did they sympathize with the country's foes.

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Gen. Jackson called them into service on the banks of the Mobile, and the speaker read from his address to the negro troops of his army to show how they acquitted themselves. That address commences with "fellow-citizens." He thanked Gen. Jackson for those words. To the ears of the negro they had a most grateful sound. Gen. Jackson spoke to his "fellow-citizens" of the qualities which he knew them to possess when he called them into service, but in addition he had found them imbued with a noble enthusiasm.

The speaker then said there had been a recent fight, which we of Missouri might perhaps recollect, and which we might have felt. At the commencement of that war the negro was requested to stand back and keep quiet. It was a white man's war, and would be fought out by white men. He had gone to Gov. Todd and requested permission, on behalf of the colored men of Ohio, to place a regiment in the field, promising that it should not cost the Government a cent until the regiment should be ready for service. The Governor replied with dignity that they were not raising negro troops.— But it soon became apparent that the rebellion meant something, and then it ceased to be a white man's war. Two hundred thousand colored troops were dressed in the National uniform, and he wished to know

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where they had failed in the duties of a soldier, or run from an enemy. He had talked with Gen. Jackson, no President of the United States, in Nashville, and that great man told him that the desperate valor of the negro troops saved the day. He called for a single instance where negroes had shown cowardice in the face of the enemy. He said that Missouri had furnished many soldiers to Massachusetts—negroes running away, not to Canada, but to the United States army. In view of this record of the negro he demanded suffrage on the ground of his patriotism. The ballot could not be dangerous in the hands of men who were *always* true to the country.

He then addressed a few words to the colored portion of his audience, which were eminently wise. He told them they must acquire character. They must fulfill their contracts, so that their word could be depended on[.] They must educate themselves. They must get money and acquire property, for this gave them consideration. They had no “massa” nor “missus” to lean on now.—Gov. Fletcher stated in his proclamation that their only master was Almighty God, and he was a master on whom they could lean, but, money was the prop which he would place under them. He made some humorous remarks on the way in which he was construed into a white man by the laws of Ohio, and

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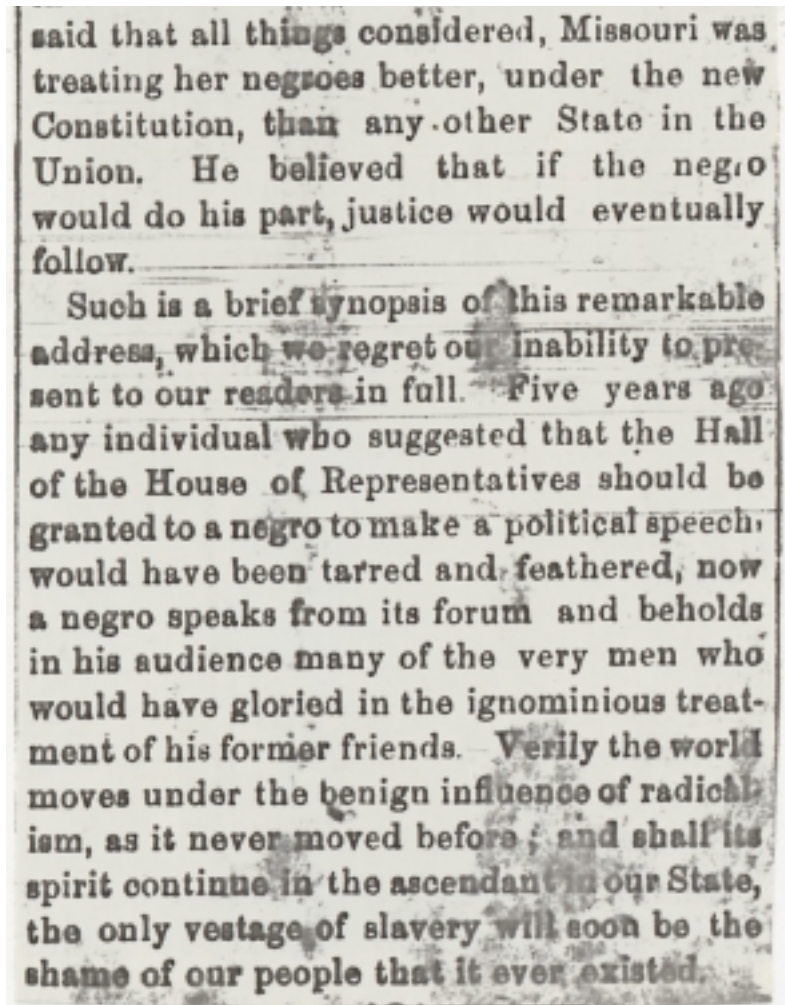
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said that all things considered, Missouri was treating her negroes better, under the new Constitution, than any other State in the Union. He believed that if the negro would do his part, justice would eventually follow.

Such is a brief synopsis of this remarkable address, which we regret our inability to present to our readers in full. Five years ago any individual who suggested that the Hall of the House of Representatives should be granted to a negro to make a political speech would have been tarred and feathered, now a negro speaks from its forum and beholds in his audience many of the very men who would have gloried in the ignominious treatment of his former friends. Verily the world moves under the benign influence of radicalism, as it never moved before; and shall its spirit continue in the ascendant in our State, the only vestage of slavery will soon be the shame of our people that it ever existed.



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