

ROBERT PURVIS said: I deprecate the doubtful tone of some of our friends in regard to the maintenance of the instrumentalities employed by the Society for the overthrow of slavery. It is said that our work is being done by the government, that the present war must end in the emancipation of the slaves. Sir, I never doubted the success of our cause, for, by a logic irresistible and inexorable, every idea based upon principle must succeed. But, sir, Why abandon any means now employed? The government protests that it has no purpose to abolish slavery—it refuses the services of colored men as soldiers—its Generals are guilty of the inhumanity and subserviency of sending back fugitive slaves—and the President has endeavored to neutralize the advance step taken by the noble Fremont in his proclamation, making *free men* of the slaves of rebel masters. Our duty to my mind is clear. We should continue in the prosecution of our labors until the work is done, and that work will not have been accomplished so long as a slave remains upon our soil. I would not wish, however, to be understood in reflecting upon the government by unjust censures; mistaken as doubtless is her policy, in ungenerous treatment of the colored people in many respects, I am not unmindful that to the honor of the present Administration is due the important fact of nullifying the Dred Scott decision and in branding with infamy the sentiment of that old Jesuit and demagogue—“that the black man has no rights which the white man is bound to respect”; Secretary Seward having furnished in due form a passport of citizenship to a black man. Neither can I overlook the fact of the government’s acceptance of the services of such men as Jim Lane, Montgomery, and John Brown, Jr., etc.

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