

*Gentlemen of the Convention:*

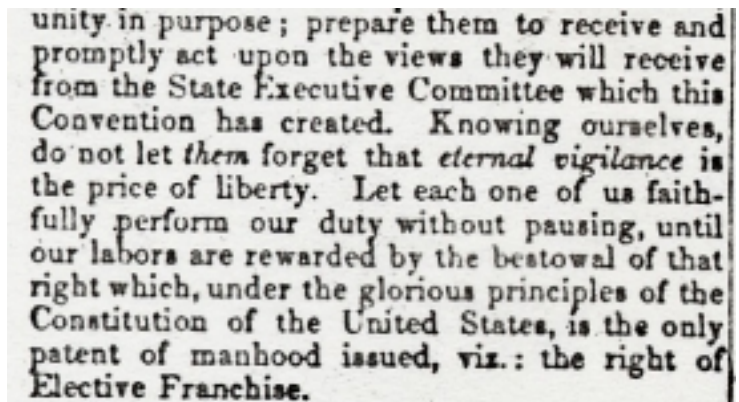
I am overpowered by this new evidence of your kindness and appreciation of my humble efforts to faithfully perform the responsible duty of the office I am about to vacate. I am reassured, by this flattering testimonial, that I have succeeded where I had feared to fail, and I retire from the distinguished position of President of the Fourth Convention held by the colored citizens of this State, with feelings of intense pride and gratification. Gratified in having my past acts of duty, to myself and my fellow men, so kindly remembered, so richly rewarded; *proud* of the harmony, amenity and unity of purpose that has characterized this Convention; and *very* proud of the wisdom, enthusiasm and eloquence that has been manifested upon every subject of importance presented to this Convention, and I heartily congratulate our people of California (through you, gentlemen, their representatives) upon the honest and very able manner their important interests have been considered and acted upon. Permit me, however, to remind you, gentlemen, that the close of this body is but the beginning of the great and ennobling end we seek to achieve, to effect which requires us to work steadily, perseveringly. Let us, then, return to our constituents, thoroughly impress upon them the importance of immediate and continuous action; stimulate them to wisdom in council,

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unity in purpose; prepare them to receive and promptly act upon the views they will receive from the State Executive Committee which this Convention has created. Knowing ourselves, do not let *them* forget that *eternal vigilance* is the price of liberty. Let each one of us faithfully perform our duty without pausing, until our labors are rewarded by the bestowal of that right which, under the glorious principles of the Constitution of the United States, is the only patent of manhood issued, viz.: the right of Elective Franchise.



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