

HEADQUARTERS  
State Republican Executive  
Committee.

John Grant, Chairman,  
Wm. E. Easton, Secretary.

Sherman, Texas. February 28th. 1895

Judge Albion W. Tourgee,

Buffalo, New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have been requested to give a few facts concerning the political situation in Texas. To do this I appreciate the necessity of brevity in the treatment of each of the respective phases of the case, as there are many. In the first place the people who have for years past had the temerity to espouse Republicanism here have demonstrated the courage of their convictions, for, indeed, in Texas the Democratic party has boasted of the largest majority of any state in the Union, often approximating 250,000. In the face of these odds it well nigh resembled folly to expect anything like a successful inroad being made upon the majority, to say nothing of the prospects of a total overthrow. All that could be hoped for by strict adherence to the tenets of the Republican party as characteristically and universally promulgated in the National platforms was that after the pall of prejudice which had cast itself over this beloved Southland by reason of the war was dispelled, that the light of reason would dawn upon the budding manhood and the liberal ones of the age, together with those who came to us from neighboring States, until we would have a sufficient number to constitute a fighting force, and one large enough to challenge a hearing from the people.

As you are doubtless aware, it is extremely hard to gain much party recognition for an infinitesimal minority. So it has been in Texas.

Republicanism has been in disrepute, and even a great many of our own members have remained in the shadow of its own unpopularity, proclaiming their allegiance to no party, but simply on the day of election casting a silent ballot. Thus, we have lost the moral support of many of our limited number. However, through all these years there has been a band of stalwarts in Texas who have kept the banner of our party constantly unfurled despite the gibes and blatant irony and scorn of our political adversaries, true to the constitution of our country and in accord with the tenets and platform of our great National party. The platforms we have stood on have been made of National timber, and we have conceived it to be strong enough to bear up the weight of every man's destiny regardless of color or previous condition of servitude. We have advocated that with the constitution of the United States spreading its protecting wings over the people of Texas and the Republican platform to stand on, that prosperity, happiness, and the full glory of universal individual liberty would be enjoyed. We have always taken our text from the constitution and have advocated equal rights to all, and special rights to none before the law, and up to the last few years we have simply had to contend with the Democrat in his constant effort at the inauguration of discriminating laws and usages, but of late a New Richmond has appeared upon the field in the shape of a political puritan calling himself a reformed Republican and dubbed Lily White. His object in political life, would seem from the name, to be the betterment of the party, whose name he bears, but is it? Their object, as stated in their confession of faith, is to eliminate the negro from politics. In other words, it is to extinguish the torch which Abraham Lincoln held aloft to enlighten the pathway of millions of benighted slaves out of the house of bondage into a glorious land of freedom and put them back into political serfdom and obscurity. It is evident that their conception of the Republican party is, that it is only large enough for people of pale faces and straight hair. They propose to reform the Republican party by the disfranchisement of the colored man. They advocate separate primaries. They cannot tolerate the negro in politics. They get this inspiration from the Democratic Svengali. They, instead of seeking to urge him to vote with greater tenacity of purpose for the Republican party are devising ways and means to keep him from voting at all. They either want to silence his vote or drive him out of the Republican party into the Democratic party? In either event, I fail to see where the advantage would accrue to our party. No, the fact is it is not for the good of the Republican party that this bouquet of uxoricides is working for but personal notoriety and aggrandizement. This, like many other gusts of alleged reform that flit across our pathway, has for its real aim that of putting its advocates in the lead and control of the party instead of their present attitude towards the old ship, that of trying to scuttle it. They are possessed of all the arrogance of a Li Hung Chang with even less combative strength. They even lay claim to having elected Judge Noonan and A. J. Rosenthal to congress from Texas when their total votes in Rosenthal's district out of about 31,000 votes cast was 106 and in Noonan's district of 36 counties out of a total vote of about 28,000 they cast 1,800 and of those it can safely be stated that one half or two thirds were cast by accident, as our fight in there was purely for Noonan, not pushing any one else on the whole state ticket. Not mentioning state ticket we

did not make a fight except for him in that district, but favored any ticket that a man wanted to vote that had Noonan on it, and we agreed not to fight the Lily Whites or any one else. So the Lily Whites headed their tickets "Republican" ticket and, of course, as there was no opposition the Lily White ticket was voted ignorantly in a good many instances, people believing they were straight Republican tickets. So, you see, as a matter of fact, they are entitled to limited consideration. You would, however, think from their claims and assumption of strength that they really amounted to something. In this county they flooded the poles with their tickets headed "Republican" ticket when on the whole ticket from first to last there was not a single Republican. We, in this county, had a straight Republican ticket, nominated in convention, for every office within the gift of the people. The Lily White ticket in this county was composed of some Lily White State Candidates, a Populist for Congress and a straight Democratic ticket as nominated in the Democratic convention from there on. That constituted their ticket here. They have not a vestige of county organization in the State of Texas that I know of, but simply have their tickets sent around in great quantities to the polls on the day of election, and rely on the people making mistakes in taking them for the regular Republican tickets. I, myself, saw negroes ignorantly voting Lily White tickets at the last election when their object was his re-enthralment. The Lily White says the negro is not true to his principles or party, but as a matter of fact the main charge against him is that he dominates the convention and is objectionable because of his presence in political places. Yes, he is present, and if it had not been for his adherence to the party and his presence at political assemblages there would not have been a vestige of Republican organization today, and as a matter of fact about the only counties this last election that gave their accustomed and increased Republican votes were in strong negro counties. But the insignificant Lily White sits around behind his Democratic breast works with his "Nigger shooter" and ever and anon you can hear the twang of his toy gun belching out from behind his masked battery at some true and regular Republican never resulting, however, in the wounding or killing of any, either voters or votes except by mistake. Like the political liliputians they are, they are satisfied if people even know that they are around. They have actually had the temerity to represent that their man Goodell was Chairman of the State Republican Executive Committee of Texas, and it is so recorded in several of the political guides. Such stolen sweets might satisfy their palates; if so, they are easily pleased. They remind me of the fable of the lion and the ass, and if I did not know them so well I would almost be alarmed myself. Out of the 100,000 Republicans in Texas they succeeded in the last election in securing 5,000 reform votes in all, including the estimated 3,000 by misrepresentation and accident. Why did not the Republican party in Ohio, Indiana, New York, and in several other

States, pass the proposed exclusion act when the negro is in sufficient numbers to overcome whatever Republican majority they may have in that state. I have heard of no such proposition. It is, however, asserted by prominent members of the reform movement here that Senator John Sherman, ex-Senator J. J. Ingalls and other men of prominence are in sympathy with their census basis of representation in Texas and the "Lily White" movement, which has for its object the extermination of political equality between the races. I can hardly think that men who have been so closely identified with contemporaneous political history in this country, as they, would assume such a position; if so, I would like to hear their reasons. For one, I would welcome a Democrat into the Republican household if he would renounce his allegiance to the party of "perfidy and dishonor". Or I would even take a Populist on probation if he would agree to behave himself. But then to think of working with might and main to devise some plausible scheme to do what the Democratic party has been doing for years, robbing the colored man of his rights of citizenship, and then look to the Republican party of the Nation to applaud and support them in it, is the most remarkably audacious scheme on record in modern times. That is what the "Lily White" is trying to do.

The Democrats in Rosenthal's district are trying to defraud him out of a seat in the next congress by their usual methods, but when the argument is made I do not think there will be a single Republican member of congress but will see the injustice inflicted upon Rosenthal and will vote to seat him. It will be shown that he was elected by from 1,500 to 2,000 plurality and that the Democrats are resorting to their customary fraudulent methods of defeating the Republican party in the south. The Republican organization of Texas made a hard fight to elect Mr. Rosenthal and did elect him and he ought to be seated, and our state organization should be sustained.

Respectfully,

  
Chairman State Republican Ex. Committee.