

This was the basis of what was known as "Reconstruction". It was adopted against the protest of the better element of the white republicans of the south. It was destined to failure from the first. So far as the colored man was concerned it was a dazzling expense for ~~justice~~ not doing justice. In-  
stead of securing him the free enjoy-  
ment of his rights, it gave him a jewel with which to buy favor, un-  
mindful of the fact that when robbed  
of the jewel he would have neither  
right nor favor. This is what  
really happened. Robbed of the bullet  
by ~~terror and~~ that sturdiest of all  
revolutions whose weapons were

masked violence, secret assassinations and general terrorization, he became a helpless victim wholly dependent ~~for~~ on the favor of those who had robbed them of their rights. In the very climax of his peril, May 1873, under the active leadership of the then Speaker of the House of Representatives, the bill continuing the power in the hands of the President by which the terrible Ku Klux conspiracy had just been checked was repealed and the colored citizens stripped of all

protection against a class which  
to the advantages of wealth and edu-  
cation, had always shown a  
recklessness in the use of means  
of which rebellions and Kukulurism  
had been <sup>very</sup> ~~the most~~ recent ~~and~~  
manifestations.

~~In like manner, when the Republicans  
of the South at infinite risk of life and limb  
had cast their votes for the Republican State and  
national candidate~~

The failure of the Reconstruction govern-  
ments, <sup>through</sup> ~~was~~ a natural consequence of the  
conditions on which reconstruction was  
based, resulted in manifest injustice  
to the colored citizen. It was no doubt,

of a curious overestimate of what was termed the "Union-sentiment" of the South. At that time, despite the evidence which the war had offered to the contrary, it was still the fashion at the North, to believe that the people of the South had been dragged into the support of the Confederacy by a few leaders who somehow or other, possessed the power to make people do what they did not wish to do. As a matter of fact the people of the South were singularly united in favor of rebellion, far more so than the people of the North in favor of its suppression.

One who is familiar with the events of that time, easily sees how this impression arose. An account of it, the belief prevailed that a large proportion of the dominant class of the south would cast in their lot with the Republican party, both on account of predisposition thereto and the opportunity it offered for political preferment. Both of these expectations measurably failed. ~~It was said~~ ~~that to any candid observer~~ At least two-thirds of the Republican party in those states was made up of colored men who could not read or write.