

2d. National Republicans: I see it stated in ~~your~~ ^a late issue
of your journal that the Republicans of Dorchester Co. C.
feared to celebrate the victory in this State from fear
of wounding Democratic sensibilities - As I ~~suppose~~ ^{can}
~~you~~ probably were responsible for ~~the course pursued~~ ^{the course pursued} then
anyone else permit me to explain its reasons -

The contest had been an unusually sharp one
here and our opponents were exasperated
beyond all bounds at their failure - Whiskey had
been absorbed to an unusual ~~and~~ amount by
the defeated party - Every thing was ripe for a
row - I knew that if a meeting was held there
would be a ~~series~~ ^{series} of insults, interruptions and
provocations by the loafers of that party, backed up
and comforted by the Pharisees of whose phylac-
teries covered Kuckluxism - I knew that these
~~prominent~~ things would at length provoke re-
taliation on the part of some of our people -

I knew that the ~~police~~^{police} of the city
could see a colored man lift his hand a-
gainst a white man a mile off the darkest
night that ever fell and would be blind
and deaf to the acts of their own party.

This being the case, I was satisfied that a meet-
ing to celebrate our victory would result
in some poor colored man, perhaps several,
who came to participate in it, being promou-
ted and perhaps punished for the crime of re-
sisting a ~~set~~^{set} of Democratic rowdies.

I did not think it right to expose these
people who have always trusted me and relied
upon my regard for their interest with unquestioning
faith, to the danger of such persecution for the

empty pleasure of crossing over a political
victory - now do I now.

You who live where men may dif-
fer in politics without being considered
personal enemies and where the color
of a man's skin is not equal to a legal
presumption of guilt may not appreciate
the feeling and may consider it an evidence
of fear but to me it seems infinitely better
to forgo a parade than to subject our
friends to trouble -

Whether this be true or not the fault is
mine and not that of the party in this
place who only yielded to my wishes,
as a successful candidate, in the matter.

Letter to Hamilton

Republicanism

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CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY