

62-12

We, the Colored Citizens of Manhattan Kansas, in Mass Convention assembled, on this 31st day of May, 1892, asserting our undying devotion to the principles of the Declaration of American Independence and our love for and loyalty to the Constitution and Government of the United States of America, do solemnly resolve,

- 1st That we deplore the failure of the General Government to adequately protect our race in the enjoyment of the rights guaranteed it in the Constitution, in that
- (a) Mob or Lynch Law has been permitted to take the place of the regular, orderly procedure of the established tribunals of justice, so that trial by jury for members of our race accused or even suspected of crime, has practically ceased in many parts of our country.
 - (b) Class legislation by the States virtually abrogating and nullifying the provisions of the Constitution of the United States, has gone on unrebuked by the General Government.
 - (c) The systematic robbery and murder of our brethren has continued for years with scarce a protest from Congress, and we are utterly unable to bring the guilty parties to justice by reason of the failure of the General Government to secure to the citizens of every State a Republican form of Government.
 - (d) Our petitions for the redress of grievances have been spurned or ignored until the old doctrine that we have no rights which a

white man is bound to respect, seems to be the belief. if not the profession of our white fellow Citizens.

2nd That we demand equal rights before the law, ~~and~~ equal protection, equal opportunity, -- one law for black and white alike, and the equal enforcement of the same, whether for punishment or protection and we will be content with nothing less.

3rd For the acquisition and preservation of the rights we demand, in the stately language of the immortal Declaration of American Independence
we the people "With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor"

Resolved: That a copy of these declarations be sent to the President of the United States, to our Senators, and to our Representative of the 5th District in Congress, and be published in our weekly city papers.

O. Keel,

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