

Mr. Editor

The relations of the white people of the country to the negro and the duty of the republican party towards him, have been discussed in your columns with vigor and ability, but it seems to me by some of your correspondents with overzealousness.

For the last four years I have spent much of my time in Texas, and freely mingled with its people in a social and business way. Texas is the state in the south that answers to the Dakotas or Nebraska in the north-west in respect that it is being settled with the best blood of all the other southern states, as the northwestern states are receiving the best blood of the east. I think it the best state in which to study the true spirit of the new south. As occasion has offered I have observed the people. I have seen them at confederate reunions, at public meetings have read their newspapers, have learned their point of view and believe that I understand them. I am certain that many northern

people have a misconception of the state of society and politics there. Let it not be forgotten that they are Saxons, Americans. They have an alert sense of personal and political rights. They are constant observers of public men and public events. They study the tendencies of legislation, and are alive, generally, to political questions. They look forward and not backward.

I am a republican. I went there as a believer in the doctrine that the negro's right to the suffrage should be maintained as a matter of natural justice and a constitutional duty. And more than all I went there as an American whose thought was, "What is best for the people of the whole country?"

I found that the people are developing a school system that promises to become equal to any in the country; the negro is encouraged in education and has his full share of the public funds and has availed himself of his advantages so well that it is seldom you see any of the younger generation who cannot read and write. He is secure in his

rights to labor and fully receives its rewards.
 The ^{and impartially} courts are open to him and justice is
 fairly administered.

The white people are energetic and patriotic
 and the old feelings engendered by the war,
 which were natural enough, are nearly
 extinguished. Every sign of ^{the times} national
 is towards homogeneity of thought and
 purpose and every year that thought and
 purpose are strengthened.

One question is serious. One question
 unites all southern people and that is
 opposition to political rule by the negro. It
 is not his mere voting, per se, that causes
 this opposition, but the danger as they con-
 sider it, that in communities where he is
 numerous enough he will actually ac-
 quire political power, will fill the offices
 and dictate public policy. This is an
 ever present dread with them.

The reasons for this feeling are not
 far to seek. They are based in race
 characteristics, in prejudices possibly and in
 knowledge of what the negro has done where

he has held political control. Whatever may ^{be} the origin of the feeling it is real and ineradicable. The indifference with which the northern man looks upon the participation of the negroes in politics, where their number is so small proportionally and where the best specimens exist, could not be expected on the part of the southern whites where the negroes are so numerous and are less cultured.

The same feeling of repugnance that would cause a northern man to revolt at the thought of marriage with a negro, animates the southern man as he thinks of being coupled by him. It is ^{in both cases} a belief in the superiority of the white man, socially and otherwise and as in the north the man guilty of miscegenation would by that act consign himself to the lowest social grade, in fact would become an outcast from amongst decent people, so one in the South who joins the negro politically is accounted a political outcast. This and this alone is the explanation of the opprobrium under

which republicans in the south labor. It is a well known fact that northern republicans of the most radical type, when they remove to the south, ^{generally} ~~rather~~ abstain from politics, a fact that is largely due to the distasteful associations, that they would have as active workers in the political field. The republicans because they freed the negro and clothed him with citizenship and suffrage, are still expected to bolster him up politically. ^{though it} seems to me that he should ^{be left to} ~~stand~~ ^{assert} his own rights without any ~~more~~ special concern for him on the part of the party. If he has those qualities in him which are worth protection, he has the qualities which in due time will need no protection in the south. ~~The~~ ^{in the south} national aspects of the republican party are lost sight of and it is expected of southern republicans that they will devote their energies to maintaining the negro as a political factor. This is a mistake, an injustice and is impracticable.

In Texas this feeling has resulted in the white republicans organizing a party of white men, playfully termed, Lily-Whites. The object of which is to have a party that is not encumbered with the black weight, a party which can entertain national questions and republican principles without reference to the race question. This party has nominated for Governor a son of Sam Houston, a man who lived and died a Union man, and who was one of the ablest and most picturesque characters in our history. Its candidate for attorney general is Mr. Davis a son of a former Governor of Texas R. W. Thompson a son of President Hayes' Secretary of the Navy as its nominee for Commissioner of the General Land Office, while the candidate for Supt. of Public Instruction is D. C. Kolf a radical Iowa republican. They are all men of ability and high character.

Northern republicans may think that this movement is an abandonment of duty and principle on the part of these southern

Republicans. I do not so look upon it. I think it an act of statesmanship. It is a movement which if adhered to will build up a Republican party in the south, which will be an aid and support and honor to national republicanism. It will put the colored people upon their metates. It will make them study politics, and content to follow reputable leaders. It will finally make them an object of interest to both parties. It will ~~take~~ remove the menace of a solid party divided on race lines and so be of inestimable benefit to the whole country. It will tend to educate them in political thought and practice and perhaps in time make them safe ~~and~~ leaders and moulders of thought. Every good citizen would hail such a state of things, but in the meantime the situation is to be dealt with as it exists now.

As bearing upon party politics I will state that the lily-white conversion of Texas

adopted a resolution condemning the "federal election bill as an unnecessary and impolitic measure" and expressing the "hope that the national republican party will make no further insistence upon its adoption."

They do not deny the ^{Constitutionality} of the act, but deem it ~~unnecessary~~ ^{unnecessary}. If this becomes the opinion of southern republicans, certainly it will ^{be} ~~be~~ ^{impolitic} to further insist upon such a bill.