

But as a matter of fact, there was no such thing as a "Negro" government, that is a government for which the Negroes as a race were responsible, in more than three states of the South and it might very well be doubted if there was such a thing in any state. Of course, in order to charge the Negroes with demonstrated incapacity in government you must show a government controlled by Negroes acting solidly against the whole body of the whites.

Clearly, such a thing cannot be shown. In only three states was there ever a colored majority. In the others, a considerable portion of the white voters acted with the Republican party and in all of them a very large proportion of the state and county offices were filled by white men. In only three of them was any of the general executive offi-

ces of the state ever filled by a Negro; and in most of them the number of colored men in the legislature never equalled the number of white Democrats in that body. In only one of them, if I remember rightly, perhaps not even in one, was there ever a time when the white members of the legislature acting together might not have prevented any action by the colored members. It was not, therefore, in any true or correct sense, race legislation or race administration and there were in all the South but two or three instances of a colored man being chosen to the bench of a court of records during this time. So that neither legislation, administration, nor the judicature of these states was ~~not~~ in any proper sense, racial in character.

But you will say that these men were elected by colored constituencies and that these men were adventurers and not citizens, who had no interest

in the state and by whom the simple ~~and incompetent~~ ignorant and inexperienced colored people were deluded in the hope and with the desire of oppressing the white people.

The Northern men who settled in the South after the close of the war were as a rule officers and soldiers of the Union Army who invested in ~~lands~~ agriculture and various manufacturing pursuits. A few ~~were~~ engaged in merchandize and fewer still hoped to practice their professions. They were, usually, men of intelligence character and good military records. Taken as a whole they were a far better class of men than those who have settled the great states of the west.

They were naturally Republicans; they believed slavery a crime and that justice and sound policy alike dictated the grant of equal rights, equal privileges, and equal opportunity and full security to the colored man. Of them, a small proportion were bad men. It has been the fashion to denounce all as the offshoots of Northern life and one would think that the prisons and brothels and slums of the North had been employed to provide "cricket-buysers" for the oppression and her-

imitation of the "Southern gentleman" whom
a New England Senator has lately eulogized
as so much the superior of his Yankee neigh-
bors. On the contrary, they were in the main the
product of Northern schools and churches and
colleges and at least nineteen out of every
twenty had seen honorable service in the
Armies of the Union. I do not say this as
anything in their favor. I am very well ac-
ware that the American people regard it
as a far more obnoxious thing for a
Federal soldier to have settled at the South
after the war, ~~than for~~ ~~an~~ for a Southern
man to have been in favor of the Union, than
for a ~~Southern~~ Confederate to have sought
the dismemberment of the Union and after-
wards to have become the advocate of
murder ~~as a~~ ~~an~~ and ~~an~~ intimidation
as a substitute for argument in poli-
tics. This is a curious fact probably unprecedented
in the world's history due in part to a
curious quality of the Northern mind which seems
to regard ~~inferiority~~ ^{excellence} as attested by self-deprecia-
tion and requires some external ideal by which
to measure