

**THE BALANCE OF POWER**

**That is What a White Man Advises the Negro Voters to Become - Place Friends at the Helm by Throwing Strength to Them Divide Between Parties**

I saw an article by Mr. W. D. Johnson, of Louisville, Ky., in the Colored American recently, which struck my attention. He says, and it is true, that the Negro is hampered by the fact that his outward appearance marks his separate class connection so obviously. Still, the door of advancement is not closed, and those Negroes who are earnestly battling against obstacles to a larger life for the race, deserve praise and encouragement.

It is with a view to offering them a certain degree of encouragement in the shape of a new way of helping themselves, that I desire to call your attention to the balancing party method of political action. The suggestion is that the colored people form a political party of their own and cast their votes with a view to the advancement of Negro interests and especially to the abolition of lynching. This does not mean that the Negro party is to nominate Negro candidates. It is perfectly plain that they are not numerous enough to elect a ticket against all others; but they can have the help of various sections of their white fellow-citizens if they will pick and choose among the candidates put in the field by the regular parties. Your opportunity lies in the fact that in some States, including his own State of Kentucky the Republicans and Democrats are so evenly balanced that it does not take much to change the majority one way or the other. Now if the Negroes will wait until the two parties have nominated their State tickets, then go over the two lists and pick out the best man for each office, being careful to take a good many Democrats as well as Republicans, and then nominate this selected list as the ticket supported by the colored men for their own interest they might succeed in causing the election of those who are thus endorsed. The result would be that those selected would be friendly to the Negroes. They would be more friendly than their opponents, ever beforehand; that is the reason the Negro convention would have endorsed them. And then their having received such effectual aid from the colored voters would make them more friendly than before. This would be true of Democrats as well as Republicans. It is true that Democrats, on general principles, are supposed to be less friendly to the colored race than Republicans, but after all Democrats have no objection to the color of any voter so he votes for them. That is true even in Louisiana. And really it is not that all there is to the friendship of a large section of the other party?

If this action were kept up, that is, discriminating amongst the candidates and electing the pro-Negro element, so to speak, in both parties, then the nominating conventions of both parties would make efforts to secure the endorsement of the balance of power party. That kind of men would be nominated by both parties, and when in office their official acts would be influenced by the same consideration.

It is important that the endorsed candidates be taken from both of the great parties. If they are taken mostly from one party then it will be about the same as though the Negroes all staid with that party, as they have done in the past.

If this policy were carried out, and the attitude of candidates toward lynching were made a prominent test, it would result in the enforcement of the laws against lynching. Of course there are laws against it now, but there is not sufficient public resentment to enforce those laws. If such sentiment were created in the border Southern States, it would surely spread farther South, even to the Gulf. I believe this is one of the most effective modes of contending against the lynching villiany that can be found instead of simply complaining about lynching, the colored people should

use this weapon of defense which lies in their hands.

I am a white man, but I should like to see the colored people take this up, both for their own good, and because it would have a good effect on the country in general.

MARK FOSTER.

**GUARDIAN'S ATTACK REPELLED.**

PROF. EPPE'S DENOUNCES THE BRUTAL CARTOON OF A BOSTON UPSTART.

The following sturdy defense of Governor Aycock, and caustic criticism of the puerile methods of the Boston Guardian, appeared in the Washington Post of September 1st.

The South is the natural home of the Negro, and it is here that he is making rapid strides along the highways of human endeavor. He is not without friends in this land of cotton, corn, peas, and potatoes. Booker T. Washington has been made the target of a Northern Negro maligner, because he dared give the southern Negro the advice necessary to his proper substantial development—social, moral, and material. Hence I am not surprised at the maligning seekers after notoriety, when they, without seeking to find the facts, injure the best Negro citizen in this section by insulting the best white citizens. Our Governor has been cartooned by some irresponsible nothead in Boston, Massachusetts. The cradle of liberty for the slave, has been dishonored by a brutal attack made on our distinguished Governor. It is in the interest of North Carolina Negro children that I write to The Post and denounce the Guardian as a base calumniator and an enemy of real Negro progress.

The Governor of North Carolina has shown a disposition not only to protect Negro citizens, but to give them very chance for proper development. Dur A. and M. College, seven Normal schools for the training of Negro teachers, the large number of graded schools, and the thousands of district schools show what is being done. While the cartoonist was making his brutal attack upon the Governor's administration of justice, he was reading with white men in Central North Carolina to protect the educational facilities of the black children of the State. Our Governor is inspiring the Negro to seek the highest ideals of character. It will be a sad day for us when the separation of the best in each race takes place. Thousands of white men, with white hearts, are doing what they can to help us along all lines of human endeavor. The Boston Guardian may better understand where the self-respecting and property holding Negro stands by reading the Baptist Sentinel, of Raleigh, with a constituency of 125,000.

The writer knows well the sentiment among white men in this section, and therefore he begs the sensation-lists to cease meddling with the affairs that concern Negroes in this State, unless they mean to follow the lines laid out in Atlanta. A campaign for the education of every white and black child has been carried on with great earnestness by white men of southern birth, and not without effect. The present week finds many teachers' institutes in session conducted by eminent Negro educators, and white men of character and ability are associated in conducting these institutions. The black citizen has pride and love for the native heath, therefore I can speak truthfully and say that the Negro teachers of Coastal North Carolina repel the attack of the Guardian of Boston.

CHARLES. M. EPPE. Plymouth, N. C.

**QUICK TO NOTE IMPROVEMENTS**

Charlotte, N. C.—Your letter of May 20th, enclosing bill on account of subscription, has been received and I enclose herewith check on Charlotte for \$2 covering same. I have noticed the several improvements which you have made in THE COLORED AMERICAN, and desire to congratulate you on same. Wishing for your paper the success which it justly merits, I desire to remain

Yours very truly,  
H. J. G.

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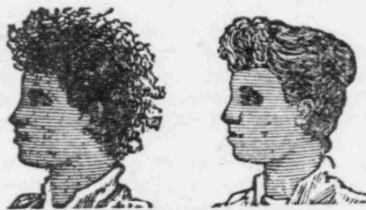
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