

BLOOMINGTON PROGRESS

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WILLIAM A. GARS, Editor and Proprietor

Celebration of the Fifteenth Amendment by the Colored Friends.

Large Attendance, Enthusiastic Jollification, and Spirited Addresses.

A few Colored Men, who, if they "cannot write an Epic Poem," certainly know how to make eloquent speeches.—Clear the boards for a free fight between the 15th Amendments and their life-long enemies, the Democracy!

On Tuesday of last week, the recently emancipated race, of this community celebrated the new amendment which guarantees unto them their merited political equality before the law. The sun, as if in sympathy with the objects sought to be demonstrated, shone out upon the earth beautifully and cheerfully, and did not stand still, change to blood, or seek to hide his smiling face, as the Democrats were wont to foretell.

The procession had been posted for 10 o'clock A.M., but was not formed 'till about 12th P.M.

At about that hour, led by the Bloomington Band, they marched from the Methodist Episcopal Church to, and around, the Public square, thence through the gate, on the west side of the Court-house and in to the court room.

The large meeting was opened by the selection of Mr. —— Jones as Chairman, and Mr. Morris Redex as Secretary, after which an eloquent and powerful appeal to the Throne of Grace was offered by Rev. J. H. Clippinger, of this city, in behalf of the colored race, all of which was beautifully appropriate, benevolent and tender.

As we wish to treat our readers to something in the way of Speeches, as unusual as they were strong and manly, we will save enough of space, and at once give in their order, the speeches of the occasion—Including the happy extemporaneous remarks of Judge Buskirk—asking for Mr. B., however, an exemption from criticism, as our Reporter says that he was several times interrupted, during the delivery of Mr. B.'s speech, and owing to the "breaks" occasioned thereby, makes his speech in a few places seem disconnected and more desultory than it really was, some of which the Reporter has altered from his notes, but perhaps not all!

J. D. BRITTON's (colored) SPEECH.

"Fellow Citizens: It is very gratifying indeed to me to be here to-day, though I do not appear here as the orator of the day, but as a sort of fore-runner.

We celebrate to-day an event of great and profound importance unto us. The historian will in future years, record this epoch as one of great magnitude. It would be superfluous to recount in this presence the wrongs which my race has suffered. It is notorious that human law, claiming to be founded upon Divine law, has been to us an engine of oppression.

A few years before the late war, to prevent the honest and liberty-loving Hungarian from procuring freedom, thirty millions stood pledged to oppose the liberation from bondage of my race.

We were dispossessed of our rights, ground down under the heel of oppression, parents were torn away from their children, a system of concubinage established, while the children of my color were reared up without the hallowed influence of a mother's love and care, and her assistance was denied the distant child.

But all these things have changed, and to-day we stand free and untrammelled and rejoice because of the proclamation which makes us so.

Have we not a right to rejoice, and mingling our voices in harmonious acclam, send up praises to our Saviour, Lincoln.

In 1838 eight hundred thousand slaves were liberated and the world sang psalms of praise, but emancipation reached this government and shook the South from center to circumference—from center to circumference.

Since then the Angel of the Lord has been sowing good seed, and to-day every man is now in favor of liberty and equality before the law. Let us be diligent and ambitious then shall our fame become enduring, and our names shall live till we shall crumble into dust. I am sure this day will live long in our hearts.

It gratifies me to see the white folks here to-day, the philosophizing white men, may both have the most pleasurable emotions. My voice is failing me and I will give way."

SPEECH OF ORATOR OF THE DAY, JAMES S. HINTON, (colored,) of Indianapolis.

"Ladies and gentlemen and Fellow Citizens: I have been invited to prepare a speech for this occasion, and was surprised on entering the hall, to find so many white persons present, a great many more than colored. They have come here to-day thinking, no doubt, that it was necessary to give color to the meeting. (General laughter.)

I lack words to express my feelings. Being identified with this race for fifteen or twenty years, I am glad I live to see this day. I

*See Judge Buskirk's Letter. It is proper to state, in this connection, that we give the speeches as reported for the *Democrat*, by Mr. Spencer; an arrangement having been made by Mr. S. with the publisher of that paper, to transfer the prepared matter to our columns.

have been a citizen of this State for twenty-six years, and this scene so fills me with happy emotions that I am too full to give them an expression.

In the year 1820 the first vessel landed at Plymouth Rock, bringing a precious cargo of Pilgrims who were escaping from the oppressions of the old world. In the same year, at Jamestown, another vessel landed loaded down with a cargo of slaves of your and my blood. But I will not here recount the sufferings which that system of slavery entailed thereafter in this country. A few years ago it would have been impossible for us to have gotten permission to occupy this Court room for any purpose. It would have been considered impolitic to have done so. Seven years ago, when, one day, I was entering a Railroad car, I was coarsely accosted by a big blustering white man with an inquiry of what I was doing aboard that train, and like a dog I was driven from the car to a seat in which I was as much entitled as my rough persecutor. My blood tingled in my veins, and in my helplessness I said, I hope to live to see the day when this prejudice will be got rid of.

Daniel Webster said, when serenaded by his friends and admirers in New York City: "This American people are a proud and independent people, but you have not yet conquered your prejudices." But I am glad that I am enabled to say that you can now consent to let us peacefully assemble and celebrate the day that brings us equality before the law.

I am not here in the interest of any party, I am here for my race and speak in their behalf. I have no desire to wound the feelings of any one here present, as there are some Democrats in the room—many Democrats are probably here to-day in this audience.

I cannot express my feelings, they are not embittered with revenge or hatred. How could you expect us to keep quiet? This people have been, for long weary years, under the scourge of slavery. How could we keep still on an occasion like this? You have had a day of Independence and have enjoyed, very properly, the festivities of it. We have not had one, nor had one till the immortal Lincoln set us free, backed by the proclamation of President Grant, then we had one. Now we have one, the 1st day of January, which we can call our day of Independence, and which we will forever celebrate. We have assembled this day to give Grant the praise—Grant, the proudest man in the country—and to celebrate the 15th Amendment, which makes you and the whites free before the law. We do not ask social equality, no black man wants that. I know some of you are afraid that a big black negro will be crowded into your parlor. You need not fear social equality, it does not exist among the white people. The Lawyer loves to mingle with those of his own profession, the banker loves to discuss stocks and bills of exchange alone with bankers, and laboring men love to associate with their own social equals. The German loves to meet with German, and, over their beer, talk to each other in their own vernacular. We ask for the same political privileges and rights. I sometimes read the Bible, and I have now found it there recorded that it is our duty to associate on equality with whites. If they will keep on their side of the house we will keep on our side, let black be black with black, and white with white. Neither is the black man a turbulent fellow, as witness his devotion even to his taskmasters during the late war. Nor is he a rebel. In no case, save one at Harper's Ferry, has he caused any disturbance. Democrats are afraid of us. Why, Jackson himself, in addressing his colored troops at the battle of New Orleans, called them fellow citizens. The progressive Republican looks over these things, and thank God, made us free, and gives us our rights.

Democrats have had time with us, had trouble on our account. They remind me of the old Methodist lady who went to camp meeting and was greatly exercised therewith. Her name was Aunt Sally, she was carried away with excitement and shouted often and vigorously. Returning home she was asked what kind of a time they had, she replied, said, instead of a Heavenly time, said they had a "hell of a time."

They opposed every compromise arrangement which was sought to be made, to put off the Fifteenth Amendment matter till a few days before the close of the session. For my own part I opposed putting it off, and if it had not been put off the taxpayers now that it will cost the State of Indiana over a hundred thousand dollars on account of their holding.

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Government only received but little more than one half of the money which the debt represents, and that therefore it should not be paid. Is not this very plausible? Let us see, now. You must remember that the price of currency is not the same now that it was at the time the debt was created. Currency, now, is nearly on a par with gold, and don't you see that it is quite as valuable now as gold was then. How do you make it out, Mr. Voorhees, that the bonds are worth more than greenbacks now. That is a fair specimen of his speech. But you may say the bonds are to be redeemed in gold. Be it so, don't you see gold is coming down, while the currency is seeking its level. If currency is worth as much as gold, then how much has the Government been defrauded in the way of a fictitious debt? So, my disaffected Republican friends, be very careful in severing your connection with your old party, that you do not find yourselves in a worse condition. You will find the Democratic party, in a few years, occupying the same position on the negro question that we now occupy; then, what will you do? I will conclude my remarks, if you will allow me to, by reading a late piece from Peter V. Nasty, which will give you a pretty fair idea of what the Democrats will do with the negro, remarking here that of course I cannot spell it to you as does Mr. Nasty.

Mr. Peter W. H. Johnson, of Indianapolis, then made a few pertinent remarks, evincing close study of histories, of fame and Biblical, and made a fine impression upon his auditors as to his strength of intellect, logical acumen, and pains-taking observation. With very little practice, he

"look yeah, dis same old coon has not changed a spot since yesterday." Democrats, you have not changed your spots; we know you are the same old coons. (Great laughter.)

This is a proud day for us. I am sorry that there are not more of my race here. To them I would say, be religious, be industrious, and be educated. The bars have been let down and we should enter into the fields from which we have heretofore been excluded. We have the same rights to the schools as the white people have. Accumulate money and farms. Let your strength be felt in this direction, for there is a potential power in such accumulations. We have the grandest land on which the sun ever shone. My blood has chilled when I heard speakers say the same years ago. We now have a great country, for us and for our children. We have the widest lakes, the longest rivers, the prettiest women, and the ugliest men (laughter) in all the world. Let nothing be done to offend in the least. Show these men—show these people—all liberty loving white men—that they have not bestowed upon us our rights in vain. You are citizens, all of you, in the fullest sense.

Hoping to appear again before you, before the canvass is over, I now thank you for your attention, so patiently given, and may you live long, happy and peaceful, and the years of your lives be crowned with the happiness of prosperity."

SPEECH BY HON. GEO. A. BUSHKIRK.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow Citizens, both white and colored.—I appear here to-day more for the purpose of honoring than for the purpose of making a speech to this meeting. I had been requested to, several days ago, and had expected to do so, but after hearing the able and eloquent addresses to which we have listened, there is but little for me to say.

I hope the Democrats are now satisfied that there are some colored men who know how to make a speech, and speak as well as the stinking, spread-eagle, hissing Daniel W. Voorhees. Mr. Hinton's speech will compare favorably with any speech ever delivered by Mr. Voorhees.

If any person can look upon the happy faces of the colored friends here assembled with reproach or ridicule, I envy not his head or his heart. In this old temple of Democracy I am glad to see you thus rejoicing, for this old building is an old relic of Democracy. What will McPhetridge, and Mitchell, and old Abel say?"

There is nothing new or novel in these meetings to us, but to our colored friends, it is a very different thing. In times past, Democrats have contended that negroes had no rights, and many of them contended that they had no souls, and were denominated by all of them with every vile epithet which devilish ingenuity could invent. I will not be as easy with the Democrats as those who have spoken before me, for you cannot talk about slavery without talking about the Democratic party, as they have always said slaves were property, the same as a mule or an old wagon. They will now come whining around the colored friends for their votes. What has the Democratic party done to elevate this race? Nothing! They opposed everything done for their advancement, were opposed to their being soldiers, and said they were cowards; but I am happy to say that the colored troops "fit nobly," and I do not say this in the sense in which it is usually used. I have a very distinct recollection of their opposition to the Fifteenth Amendment in the State Legislature, where for a short time they stopped legislation; and yet they will now come to you for your votes. There is a nice little bill of expenses connected with their attempt to defeat that Amendment. I will just say to the taxpayers now that it will cost the

State of Indiana over a hundred thousand dollars on account of their holding.

I will just here reply to the speech of Mr. Voorhees, I mean his financial speech, as I have been requested to give a few things in it a ventilation. Mr. Voorhees says that more than one half of the public debt is a fraud and a fiction, that the Government only received but little

more than one half of the money which the debt represents, and that therefore it should not be paid. Is not this very plausible? Let us see, now. You must remember that the price of currency is not the same now that it was at the time the debt was created.

By virtue of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of the Monroe Common Pleas Court, in a cause wherein Isaac Boltzenghe is plaintiff, and Daniel Thomas is defendant, requiring me to make the sum of two hundred and thirty-nine dollars, with interest on said decree and costs, I will expose at public sale, to the highest bidder, on

Saturday, May 14th, 1870, between the hours of 10 o'clock A.M. and 4 o'clock P.M., of said day, at the door of the court house of Monroe county, the rents and profits for a term not exceeding seven years, the following described real estate, to-wit:

The north-east quarter of section thirty-five, in township ten, north of range one east, containing one hundred and sixty acres more or less.

If such rents and profits will not sell for a sufficient sum to satisfy said decree, interests and costs, I will, at the same time and place expose at public sale the fee simple of said real estate, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to discharge said decree, interest and costs.

Said sale will be made with relief from valuation and appraisal laws.

LAWSON E. MCKINNEY, ap 20 1870 Sheriff Monroe Co.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

By virtue of two executions to me directed from the Clerk of the Monroe Common Pleas Court, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on

Saturday, May 7, 1870, between the hours of 10 o'clock A.M. and 4 o'clock P.M., of said day, at the door of the Court House of Monroe County, the rents and profits for a term not exceeding seven years, the following described real estate, to-wit:

The northwest quarter of section nineteen, and the southwest quarter of section nineteen.

Also, the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section nineteen, all in township ten, north of range one west, containing two hundred and forty acres, more or less.

And on failure to realize the full amount of judgment, interests and costs, I will at the same time and place expose at public sale the fee simple of said real estate.

Taken as the property of Samuel Denny, at the suits of James Buskirk and David V. Buskirk.

Said sale will be made without any relief whatever from valuation or appraisal laws.

LAWSON E. MCKINNEY, ap 13 '70 Sheriff Monroe county.

Sale bills printed at satisfactory rates at this office.

my father before me was a Democrat, my eldest brother is a Democrat, and I have another brother that some of you may have heard is a Democrat. (Laughter.) I did not know any better than to vote the ticket. Oh! it was so natural to vote the Democratic ticket; but I never was a Democrat at heart on the subject of slavery, from my earliest infancy. I have severed my connection with that party, and I have done it for all time to come. It matters not what shall be the fate of the Republican party. Whoever else may leave it, I will, so help me God, remain and vote the ticket forever, before I will affiliate with such traitors as Vallandigham and Voorhees, the enemies of my country. Whenever the Democratic party shall have expelled them from their ranks, I will keep this challenge standing as long as Mr. East's famous arraignment of the Republicans stood in the columns of the *Democrat*, and longer.

We may now bring out your John R. East, gentlemen—we'll send out some of our young David's and overwhelm them with greater confusion than J. R. East, said he did Major Carter, at Herodoburg. We shall keep this challenge standing as long as Mr. East's famous arraignment of the Republicans stood in the columns of the *Democrat*, and longer.

We will close our report by copying from last week's *Bloomington Democrat*, verses of poetry expressive of our glad feelings. All sing:

AMERICA FREE!

Oh, Liberty! whose hallowed name
The forward world hath mocked so long,
Whose mother'd rage and crimson shame
Bore witness to thy cruel wrong;
Behold, where late a chattel stood,
With woof look and weary hands,
And back all scarred with scars and blood,
A proud unfranchised son, reigns stand—
Where heavy lash and galling chain
Henceforth shall hiss and clank in vain!
Sweet spirit of the olden time,
When honor, wealth, and battle-blade,
With a devotion all sublime,
Against oppression's curse were weighed,
Give welcome to the march of Truth,
With laurels o'er her pathway cast;
The prize that nerve'd the nation's youth
Securely in her hands at last!
Her heralds shouting to the morn,
"All men are free and equal born!"

MARRIED,

On the 7th day of April, at the residence of the bride's father, at Scotland, Green Co., by Rev. Mr. Clark, William Gordon to Miss Angelina Phillips.

Early Rose Potatoes FOR SEED.

H. L. EDMONDSON, the well known Potato Grower, has a limited quantity of Pure Early Rose Potatoes, which he offers to those who desire to raise the greatest quantity from the best seed. These Potatoes were raised from genuine seed—no admixture.

For Sale by Dunn & Co.

For sale also, at my residence, on the Canning Farm, one mile and a half west of Bloomington, mar 9

NOTICE

To all whom it may concern.
The under-signed, having engaged in another business, requiring his attention, would say to those knowing themselves indebted to him that he has placed his

NOTES AND ACCOUNTS in the hands of Messrs. Louder & McCoy, for collection. Those wanting to save costs will do well to call and settle immediately, as longer indulgence cannot be given.

JAMES SMITH.

Bloomington, Ind., April 1870.

REMOVAL.

WILEY L. BATES, Fine Boot Maker, has removed his shop to the room formerly occupied by W. H. Bodkin as a Tin store,

One Door West of Joseph Howe's Corner, on Fifth Street.

Orders solicited for first-class French Calf' Boots, sewed or pegged. Fit warranted. Attention given to repairing.

WILEY L. BATES.

Bloomington, Ind., April 20, 1870.

New Stove Store AND

Tin Shop.