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A Loyal Voice from Louisiana.

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SPRECH OF HON. A. P. DOSTIE,

Delivered Before the Union Association of New Orleans, January 27, 1866.

FELLOW-CITIZENS: -The friends of the Union and Liberty, in reviewing the events that have convulsed our republic for the past four years, rejoice in the glorious fact that the most gigan tic rebellion upon record has been crushed-that the "Confederate States of America" are but an idea of the past. To-day the flag of the United States waves over this vast coun Ty, proclaiming the blessings of ircedom and humanity to every man of whatsoever race or color. Emblazoned upon its ample tolds is the motto-No North, no South, no East, no West-the United States of America, one and indivisible. The leading traitors of the nation-the Davises and Breckin ridges-with many of lesser stamp, now languish in prisions, awaiting trial and condemnation, or are lugitives from the justice of a people they have clothed in the habiliments of mourning, and who have doomed them to initimy, as the murderers of their fathers, sons, and brothers. To-day, tellow-citizens, the nation is sovereign. The Constitution, Laws, and Gov-ernment command treason to be silent that Justice and Liberty may reconstruct the repub-lic upon a basis that shall forever exclude s invery, and establish universal justice.

The friends of emancipation and of equal rights look triumphantly upon the overchrow of that infamous system, which was enveloping. with its anaconda folds, our republican struc ture, and undermining by its subtle poson the noblest of governments, that it might build apon its rules an oligarchical despotesm. We are now a nation of freemen. We claim that the people are the legitimate source of power. They command the enemies of liberty to cease their infernal work.

The Rebellion, which has baptized our country in blood, and caused hundreds of thousands to seal with their lives their devotion to liberty, has resulted in the liberation of your millions of human beings. It was a war of principles-of principles that, when once fairly inaugurated must result in a full development of the republican elements which lie at the roundation of our Government.

The progressive spirit of the age sternly de-manded that the despotism which the aristocracy of the South arrogated over the poor man, should cease, that the oppressed should have tull privilege to enjoy the mestimable blessings of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," But that the lingering aristocrats of the land seek to withhold these from the masses, we have ample evidence. What mean these late convul-ive movements of the enemies of democratic republican liberty throughout the South Why have they combined with the Copperheads of the North to overthrow the great work the friends of republican institutions have accomplished in the last four years?

Do we not discover in their attempts the machinations of a relentless, hydra-headed aristocracy repudiating still the immortal truths that all men are equally free and indepen that " government is instituted for th dent: benent, protection, and security of the people that no tree Government, or the blessings of liberty, can be preserved to any people, but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, and virtue?

Why do the Legislatures of the rebellious States so persistently refuse to recognize the fact that slavery has ceased to exist in our country? Alas! are not the men who compose the bodies, and who have met to make laws, the men who have for the last four years been imbrung their guilty hands in the blood of our Have not they murdered these noble heroes? men that slavery might become the cornerstone of their proposed despotism? Can we trust these men to give to freemen their rights Patriots and statesmen, distinguished for their love of the Union, and all who truly love their cougtry, exclaim against the outrage of having such rulers.

We are told by the Democratic party that this is President Johnson's policy. I do not believe that President Johnson intends to place traitors in power. I have had the honor of several interviews with him, and I was impressed by the conviction that he is a true patriot, an honest man, and able statesman. I do not believe it will ever be Andrew Johnson's policy to place political power in the hands of men who mave abored to destroy the most beneficent of Governments. His past acts and words have ever been in direct antagoaism to this suicioal policy. At Nashville, as Governor of Tennessee, he says:-"I, Andrew Johnson, hereby proclaim liberty-full, broad, uncoaditional liberty-to every man in Tennessee. Rebellion shall no more pollute our State. Loval mon, whether black or white, shall govern the State." Again, as President of the United States he says:-"In adjusting and putting the Government on its legs again, I think the progress of the work must be put into the hauds of its friends. If a State is to be nursed until it gets sirength, it must be nursed by its friends, not smothered by its enemies. The great problem of reconstruction before the American people is now being solved by a Republican Congress, with which the President is in accord. There is no worthy basis for the Government of States but that basis which contains the elements of justice and of equal rights. The corner-stone of all republican governments must be the self evident trutus, that "all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights: that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Shall the eleven rebellious States, which have declared these immortal declarations to be contrary to their policy of government, be allowed to send their representatives to Con-gress until they abandon their political heresies as they have the field? Does not the dignity of the nation demand this? Does not freedom itself demand that none shall be sent to our National Legislature to represent the vital interests of these States but those who have been ateadfast, devoted upholders of the Union, when the life of the nation was assailed? If this policy is not adopted and enforced we shall have treason again in our Congressional halls, and a new set of Davises. Breckmridges, and Slidells will seck to seize the reins of government and reuew their war upon loyal men and upon the Union. Heaven grant our Republic may never again be summoned to meet rebellion, begun by Sena-tors, Legislators, and Governors-that liberty and civilization shall be draped in mourning b traitors; men who, having taken a solemn oath to maintain the Government, betray it, and thrust their swords of treason into the vitals of the nation. In the name of God, our Congressional and our Legislative halls be purified from the taint of treason! We cannot trust men to make laws for our State and for the nation, who, by their traitorous acts, have distranchised themselves—have forfeited their right to vote or to hold office under the National or State Governments. Let them remain dis-franchised until the evidence of their repentance is perfect. If this policy is not pursued, the peace and unity of the country will be constantly imperilled. President Johnson has again and again de-clared that none but loyal men had a right to rule the country. While Governor of Tennessee he said :- "But in calling a Convention to re store the State, who shall restore and establish it? Shall the man who gave his means and influence to destroy the Government? Is he to participate in the great work of reorganization? Shall he who brought this misery upon the State be permitted to control its destinics? Again he savs:-""Why all this blood and carand traitors punished; therefore, I say that traitors should take a back seat in the work of restoration. If there should be but five thousand men loyal to the Constitution, loyal to freedom, loyal to justice, these true and faithful men shall control the work of reorganization and reformation absolutely."

son will no longer threaten the peace, harmony, and unity of the pation. Anarchy, convulsion, and conflict will be among the things of the past. Citizens: -In this work of reconstruction, let us earnestly labor with the patriots of our country to establish the principles of universal justice and impartial irredom. That in the re-organization, equity shall prevail. That there shall be no repudiation of just debts, and no recognition of the debts of Rebels; no slaverynothing but justice.

Should men who made the Rebellion be per-mitted to possess the power they seek, and succeed with the Copperheads of the North in their conspiracies, we may, indeed, fear for the precious boon of liberty. We want no Rebel party in disguise. We must not imperil our rictious heritage by a misludge1 magnanimity towards even the remains of an insolent aris-tocracy. This class are still continuacious Rebels, and, as such, are not worthy of confi-dence. They must suffer the ignominy due their crin es, and receive their just punishment that worketh repentance.

Long years these traitors have plotted the estruction of our Government-ol the Constiin this great work of the reconstruction of States this Unice may be based upon the national recognition of all men's inalienable rights, and that nothing may be endangered by precipitancy. As Mr. Colfax has said, "Let the work make haste slowly," and we can then hope that the foundation of our Government, when recon-structed on the basis of indisputable loyalty and ireedom, will be as "eternal as the stars."

Freedom is the watchword of this age of progress. The decree has gone forth that liberty shall rule supreme in this Republic and throughout the world. The words of our martyred Luncoln were prophetics-"This nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and government of the acopte, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

In my opinion, before this work of restoration can be fully consummated, this Government must recognize and secure the equal political, as well as religious, civil, and moral rights of men.

Friends-On the question of universal sulfrage I feel as did Gad-den, of South Carolina, in reference to the Stamp Act of 1765, when he exclaimed :-- "We stand uoon the broad, common ground of those natural rights which we feel and know as men." The two elements now at work in our land are striving, the one to perpetuate freedom, the other to destroy the power which justice seeks to give man. Whence arises this bitter antagonism to the free, uncoud tional, and equal rights of the oppressed ? Are these rights not denounced most discreely by the infamous instigators of the Rebellion-the aristocratic conspirators of this country, who have declared, by words and by war, that power was more potent than right, and oppression than equity? four millions of human beings made free during the past four years are not recognized as treedmen by their former masters. Their rights are not respected by them. The terrible events of he past four years have not opened their eyes to sight in this matter. They will not look upon truths which are in accordance with the laws of God and republican principles. Who were the loyal and steadlast triends of the best of Governments in her hour of peril? Who came forward by hundreds of thousands at the call of Abraham Lincoln, and fought with a courage unsurpassed by the bravest soldiers, helping the nation in the darkest hour of danger to turn the tide of battle, and win the precious victory that made afe the Republic? O triends! let us be just, and labor to extend to this portion of our fellowtitizens those rights the God of Nature has bequeathed in common-the right of self-govern nent-of representation of the ballot-lor until hese rights are given we cannot become fully a nation of freemen. Refuse the just demands of a brave and loyal people, and internecine war, discord, sectional and national strite will reappear, in some form, with their blighting effects upon the country. It is said by the enemies of negro suffrage

that this people are uneducated in the science of covernment, and therefore untit for the right of suffrage. Have they not already proved to the world their capacity to appreciate all the truths necessary to be understood by the loval citizens of the United States in order to maintain the rights of freemen? Do we not find them as auxious for the acquisition of knowledge as the white race ? Contemplate some of the developments of freedom to this race. Go into the schools of the meedmen in this State, esta-blished by this munificent Government, where apwards of twenty thousand colored people are eing educated. See with what avidity they apply themselves to the various branches knowledge. Examine them in the progress of their various studies. Then, casting aside all prejudice of color, tell us if they have not capacity to understand and appreciate the principles which lay at the foundation of a truly republican government. The loyal heart of the nation is fully aroused to the importance of educating the race morally, intellectually, civitly, and politically. The great defender of human tiberty, Abraham Lincola. says, in a letter to Governor Hahn, "I congratu-late you in having fixed your name in history as the first Free State Governor of Louisiana, Now, as you are about to have a Convention, which, mong other things, will possibly define the elective tranchise, I barely suggest to you, whether some of the colored people may not be let in, as, for instance, the intelligent, and especially those who have longht gallantly in our ranks. They would probably help in some trying time to keep the lewel of liberty in the family of freedom. President Johnson said, on this question of egro suffrage, "Were I in Tennessee, I would introduce negro suffrage, gradually, first to those sho had served in the army, those who could ead and write, and perhaps a qualification to others. The voices of patriots all over the land are proclaiming that freedom and the right of sufrage are inseparable. It has become a historical fact that stands out boldly upon American records, that the black men of this country have vindicated this Government, and "cemented its foundation stones with their blood." Shall we hen refuse them support to maintain the laws? Can we say, in justice, they shall not become citizens? The voice of liberty, in thunder tones which shake despotisms and make oppressors tremble, says: -- "Freedom means universal rights, universal lustice." That voice has been always speaking, not only in our own country, but through the patriots, statesmen, poets, and hilanthropists of other nations. England has roclaimed universal liberty and human rights. brough her Wilbertorce, her Locke, her Pitt, her Shakesneare, and her Milton. Ireland, through her O'Connell, her Father Mathew, and her Curran, speaks toudly for the precious boon of liberty. Germany-freedom-loving Germany of liberty. forth her sweetest notes of freedom through her Schilter, Luther, and Humboldt. France breathed the pure, immortal flame of liberty from the fires which burst from the noble heart of Lalayette, whose pulse throubed with that of our own Washington, as they stroggied together for human rights. Italy boasts her Garitaldi-thousands of voices chant the strains of therig at the mention of that name, associated forever with freedom. In cur own beloved land the combined volces of millions may be heard speaking for universal treedom, universal justics. Through our maryred Lincolu, her living Johnson, her Banks, her Butler, and hundreds of others, we speak. Louisiana has her Durant, her Hahn, and many others, who are raising their voices in favor of umanity and universal suffrage. Can the sneers and scoffs of the enemies of reedom-the hiss of Copperheads, or the com-imed powers of any despotism, silence this solce? Never! ideas do not travel backwards. voice? This voice of freedom is now awakening those who's. who have been fighting in the ranks of treason and rebellion. The Stophenses, Bells, and Rengans of the "so-called Contederacy" have recently had the peactration to discover "the recently had the beschatton to discover "the truth" that freedom pointed to the right of suf-irage. Who knows but we may live to see the Rebels who have gone to Brazil, in the hope of incing slavery, return with the conviction that equal rights, republicanism, and democracy are better than dayery and oppression. better than slavery and oppression. God has given human beings reason and energy, land man has no right to chain that reason and energy by oppressive laws, or in any way prevent the exercise of those rights, which in equity belong to all. Kossuth, in reviewing the rights of man, exclaims, "Liberty is liberty, as God is God."

The adoption of the Constitutional amendment has extirpated slavery from our country. God grant that all things pertaining to its unjust laws or to its spirit may be extirpated ! The Rebel Legislatures have recently made laws in direct opposition to the Constitutional amendment, which reads-"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party has been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States,

or any place subject to their iurisdiction." These Legislatures, also, true to their slavo-cratic instincts, ignore by their acts the selfevident truth that man has an inherent right to enjoy civil, religious, and political liberty. There is not on earth a republic but this that legislates the rights of man away. No nation but this distranchises freedmen because of their color or race. In slaveholding Brazil they do not go so far as do the enemies of negro sudrage in this country. In Brazil, freedmen, regard-less of color, are equal before the law, and clicible to any office. In the British West Indies, the blacks were sent to the Republican Chamber of Deputies, as representatives. And yet, in what nation, we ask, have they fought for liberty as they have in our Revolutionary war, in the war of 1812, and in our recent great struggle for

In regard to political rights, we do not as a nation stand on the same broad basis as did our Revolutionary fathers. Washington, Jefferson, Hancock, and Hanulton went to the polls, and senesized their ballots where the negroes did theirs. These Revolutionary patriots advocated the cause of equal rights, and maintained the rights of all freemen to the ballot-box. The black man voted under Washington's, Adams', Madi on's, and Jackson's administrations.

In five of the New England States they have voting ever since the Revolutionary war. In Pennsylvania they continued to vote until 1838. In Maryland and Virginia they voted until 1832; in New Jersey until 1839; and in North Carolina and Tennessee until 1835.

Negroes, atter tighting in New Orleans under Jackson, helped to elect the hero to Congress.

The black people of this country have been ardently and universally loyal, and ever ready to fight against the anti-democratic and antiepublican principles which despots have sought to establish in this republic. They are Ameri-cans by birth, and love freedom with an undying love, which they instinctively know is destined for all Americans.

At New Orleans, Mobile, and other cities. how did they spend the Fourth of July, 1865) Was not American treedom honored by them Was not the memory of Abraham glorified by this grateful people? On that day the black men of this nation proved themselves worthy to assist in carrying out the principles inculcated by the Declaration of Independence. They proved on that day their right to demand the same freedom the white man claims.

The negro wants no protection but just and equitable laws. He only asks, in the spirit of 1776, to be entranchised from the thraidom of oppression. He knows as well as we do that distinctions growing out of color or race are incompatible with justice. This is an age of progress not only for the white man, but the

The black man is becoming intelligent, and ooks upon the enemies of liberty, just as the intelligent white man looks upon slavery, eridom, vagrant acts, oppressions, and wrong as all just men do. He knows that the nation imperatively demands equal rights and justice, and believes, with us, that this demand will be satisfied. He exclaims with the triends of equal rights:-"Let there be freedom for all, educa-tion for all, labor for all?" Justice demands thus, and nothing else will be satisfactory.

We want no more Opelousas ordinance, which prohibits freedmen from coming to town without special permission; which prohibits them iberiy on the streets after 10 o'clock at night; which declares that freemen shall not reside within the limits of the town, unless they be in the regular service of some white person or former master; which refuses freemen the right to hold public meetings, to preach, or to carry arms: which refuses them the liberty to barter, or to sell goods, without the special permission of their employers, under the penalty of imprisonments, fines, or hard labor on the public roads. Neither must these persistant slaveocrats be permitted to put into operation those intamous laws enacted in the Rebel Democratic Legislature of 1865, which force freemen to conact away their labor, and submit themselves to sinvery under new names We want no negro vagrant laws, no more jail tees, highest bidder, rendition of poor and ind'-gent persons of color !--no more reminders of the block, the bail chain, the "nigger dogs," the fugitive slave laws, and the slave gangs of the Let this people alone to enjoy the same pro tection we are entitled to claim. Let this people with the aid of justice and liberty, work out their own destiny. If they will not work let them starve; but give them an equal chance with us in the struggle of life. When the slave oligarchy tuled in the pleni-tude of its power, the rights of the taboring classes were trampled under foot. Free labor was reduced to the level of slave labor. This shall be no more. The fiat has gone forth that labor shall not be subjected to a domineering unscrupatous aristocracy. A new era has dawned upon this country. Labor in the future will be respectable and dignified, and command the best tortion of the fruit it produces. The Union party of Louisiana has labored earnestly and faithoully to wipe out the disgraceful laws of the State, that she might be some one of the brilliant lights of the nation. Abraham Lincoln was the prime mover in this work of reformation. His sympathies were ever with the Republican movements. His voice, which can never be lost to this nation, was heard on the eve of his departure from earth declaring his sympathy with the Constitution of 1864, which ignored the Black Code of this State, abolished siavery, and the laws which governed it, from her statute books. My friends, the Republican party of Louisians -counting white men only-are in a minority in the State. A Rebel D-mocratic party, composed of domineering aristocrats, who one year ag were fighting against republican liberty, and who to day are seeking to crush loyal men, both white and black, by a renewed tyranny, continue their saturic oppressions and wrongs, while they attempt to draw the yell of hypocrisy over their damnable conspiracies. The National Republican party, to which all oyal men in the South belong, see s to establish liberty and justice throughout the land. For the past tour years it has been working for treedom and equal rights, against slavery and oppression; against that slaveocratic power which hates, with undying hate, tree schools, a free press, free speech, and all that pertains to that om a just God designs for this mighty coublic. We are called upon to battle with these rebellious tyrants. In that work, my friends, we must be united. Our beloved Louisiana is in imminent danger from the deadly foes of free-dem. Let us who love the Union and liberty. forget past differences, and combine to fight the oppressors who threaten to crush out the loya element of this State. Shall we not with our President say, "Let us be united. I know there are out two parties now—one for the country and the other against it; and I am for my country". While we embrace this noble sentiment, let us inscribe upon our republican ban-ner the moito, "Union, Justice, Confidence, Freedom, Entranchisement." Freedom must triumph in our State. Louisi-ana must become the land of human rights-the land where every one can enfor his own labor, his own soil-where all can claim the right to educate their own children, and have all the rights of human beings respected by their neighbor, and maintain the rights of self-government, of the ballot, and all other rights which impartial justice claims for the citizens of a magnanimous republic. Then we can yount our freedom; then will the foreigner no longer reproach America with slavery; then can we say, in truth, our land is the "asylum of the oppressed and the home of the tree." of every nation shall cherish it as the land of human rights-the land where liberty means to enjoy manhood free and untramm-lied, with all the inestimable rights of freedom in its broadest and fullest meaning. Then may the citizen proudly boast- I AM AN AMERICAN."



These are words worthy a Democratic Republican President, and we have reason to believe that our truly republican Congress will sustain these noble sentiments. Then will treason be made odious, and genoine lovalty and unimpeachable integrity be rewarded. Our republic will no longer be in danger of being buried beneath the powers of despotism. Trea-