

THE MARYLAND CAMPAIGN.

A Colored Man's Observations at Some Recent Meetings.

Editor Post: Permit me space in the columns of your valuable paper to state a few facts concerning the management of the Republican campaign in Maryland that the colored voters, who are expected to help swell the majority of Mr. Lowndes, may better understand the attitude of the managers toward them. Having heard so much about the mass-meeting at Laurel two weeks ago, where separate tables were provided at the barbecue for white and colored voters, and where no colored man was invited to speak, I visited the Republican meeting at Bladensburg last night to see whether the same thing would be repeated, and to ascertain as best I could the sentiment of the colored voters of that district. The meeting, while largely attended, was composed chiefly of Washingtonians who were not voters, and a white band from Washington furnished music. Mr. D. E. Graves was made chairman, with four vice chairmen, all of whom were white. The speaking, which did not commence till nearly 9 o'clock, lasted till 12 o'clock. All the speakers, about eight in number, being white save one, and he did not belong in the State, and was only invited to the platform on the vociferous demand of the crowd. I was told by a prominent white Republican, one who probably thought that I voiced his sentiments, that they (the Republicans) had to be careful in this crisis about inviting colored men to speak, lest there be a falling off among their white followers.

It is decidedly evident that the Republicans are endeavoring not only to evade the colored voter, but to silence him in this contest in a manner, as they hope, that he will not be able to discover. But such an open manifestation of lukewarmness toward the colored voters is noticed and spoken of by men whose intellect is below the average, so far as it relates to education, and there are not a few who sensibly feel the slight, as future developments will tell.

The issues involved in the campaign cannot be said truthfully to concern the colored any more than the white people. Both parties are committed to reassessment, free school books, and fair elections. Not for the benefit of a contingent, but for the people of the State. Assuming that each party means what it says, and either will, if successful, carry out its pledges, I fail to see what the colored man can reasonably expect from Republican any more than from Democratic success. The Baltimore Sun, a new exponent of Republicanism, speaking of Republican success, declared, editorially, that there are too many white men in the State to even dream of the offices being given to negroes. The negro, therefore, has nothing to hope for in the event of Mr. Lowndes' election. He has promised to recommend reassessment of property and free school books for white and colored, and so has Mr. Hurst, so that upon the main issue they represent one and the same thing.

Mr. Hurst, however, was never in public life, therefore there can be nothing said against him politically. But Mr. Lowndes, while a member of Congress, placed himself on record as an opponent of the civil and political rights of the colored race by voting against the passage of the civil rights bill. This is the man in whom the salvation of the colored people of Maryland lies, and for whom 50,000 are asked and expected to vote. The colored vote is an important factor in this campaign, and as such should make itself felt to the end that those who for so many years have relied upon them for support and never relied in vain may be taught to know that the change of events teaches lessons to black as well as white.

It is idle to assert that the negro has nothing to hope for under a Democratic administration in the face of facts to the contrary. Under the previous as well as under the present administration of President Cleveland the colored race has had a liberal share of patronage, and upon the principles of manhood has received the same recognition. I have been told, too,

by good authority, possibly a man who has tried the experiment, that Chairman Wellington, of the Republican State Committee, will not even accord colored politicians an interview, to say nothing of assigning them to campaign work, and, further, that Rev. Dr. Bryant, the well-known colored orator, has been given the humble position of doorkeeper to prevent the colored politician seeing the chairman of the committee. Think of this, colored voters, and bear in mind that Mr. Wellington owes his election to your suffrages. Since it is obvious that the Republicans have inaugurated a campaign independent of negro support, let them elect their candidates accordingly. Let no intelligent colored man allow those desirous of success to play upon his credibility and keep him behind the screen, lest his presence frighten away others whom they hope to assist them.

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