

THE BOSTON ADVOCATE, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1886.

Race Pride and Unity.

[READ AT THE HISTORICAL LIBRARY, NEWPORT, R. I., MONDAY EVENING, OCT. 11, BY MRS. M. C. WILSON.]

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I appear before you this evening like the widow before the unjust judge. Still wearing you with my plea until I shall be heard, namely, race pride, business facilities developed among us, and less clinging to the white man and woman's skirts, and more independence as a race among races. Mr. Peters, of Newport, I don't know who he is, whether that is a fictitious name signed to hide identity, I know not. But there appeared in the *BOSTON ADVOCATE* of Oct. 2nd, a letter from him disapproving of any thing more being said on the color-line against the whites, and dinging at the colored about race pride, for he loved his race as well as any one.

The New York correspondent, the Cambridge, Mass., and Newport, R. I., also, Lieut. Trotter at the Convention of Colored Men, held lately in Boston—every one of us have been guilty of agitating color-line and race pride. I as the Newport correspondent am here to defend them, and myself against this attack. When the slavery question was being agitated by Wm. Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips, Chas. Sumner, and a host of the Saxon race, also by those of our own race, Chas. Lenox Remond, Fred. Douglas, Wm. C. Nell Lewis Hayden, and your worthy president, Thos. G. Williams, Mr. Geo. T. Downing and my own father, and a host of others, a cry came from the lips of those our oppressors, right here in the midst of these whole-souled men. Stop we don't—nor won't hear you. But did they stop? I answer, no! They continued to agitate and to fight the more. Although Garrison was dragged through the streets of Boston by a rope attached to his neck, and Chas. Sumner, our noble friend and champion, who did not flinch once, though stricken down in the Senate of the United States by the blows from the weapon handled by that desperado of Charleston, S. C. Did they stop? I answer, no! They agitated three-fold more, and their voices echoed and re-echoed from Massachusetts to Texas. Did they accomplish anything? Yes, the chains and shackles were stricken off of four million of our race. When

it has been no great benefit to them, although they have been in contact with the whites 15, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years. Yes, these men and many colored men rear a family, educate them and they are a burden upon their hands. Their sons cannot enter the counting-room, nor be hired for the different stores and work their way up and stand behind the counter as salesmen and clerks, and every avenue where if they did not know, could learn as well as the Irish, German, Italian, Swedes, and even Chinamen, and hence if he is not a waiter, or black scullion of some kind for the whites, he has got nothing to do. If they learn the barber's trade it is hard work to get a chance to learn among their own for most of the colored barbers prefer white apprentices, and after they have given the whites the trade, they set up shops all around the colored proprietor, and would not even hire him if he wanted work after having learned the trade from him. Here and there a colored young man may get a chance to learn the trade with a white barber, but mark you, he is not an American like himself, but a German or Frenchman. Every young man being not fitted for these situations, and his pride rising above it, he becomes discouraged, and hence becomes dissipated and idle. Others have to leave their homes and go to the far West and South in order to be what they aspire to. Hundreds of our race are in the far West doing well, and many of our young men are there doing well as lawyers, doctors, teachers, farmers and in other situations and positions. Don't you see the necessity of race pride? Don't you see how we have to flee to our own to get anything of any note or money? Imagine a young man being satisfied to be a waiter all his life. His wages \$18 to \$20 dollars at the highest per month, and many of them married, and how they can support a family upon such wages I cannot see, but of course, the wife is expected to bring up the rear by going out to service, or going out washing and ironing or taking it in. Every woman can't do it. Perhaps you have taken one from a comfortable home and kind parents, who cared for her tenderly and every want and wish gratified. But now being taxed with a burden of a family and this extra work outside, her

colored churches have to go and make an audience in order that respect can be shown to the colored dead member of any of the white churches anywhere. You will see one or two whites sitting near the door, the organ closed, the choir at home. What is the matter? ain't one of your members buried to-day is the inquiry? Yes, one of the colored members, but their own people will be there to take charge, as though they were not of their own fold. I say we ought to stop this going to white churches to make an audience to bury their members because they are colored. We should make them show respect to all their members, regardless of color. Unity, loyalty and race pride will be our cry until every vestige of color-line disappears into oblivion, never to hear of a resurrection.

Young men and old men and you who have money to go forward and buy up land, don't let foreign capitalists come here and buy up all the land West and South, while you stand with your arms folded and look on; or go West and South, and do likewise.

THEY SAY

(Specially reported for the Advocate.)

—That the Bartololi Statue of Liberty will be dedicated Oct. 24.

—That Christine Nilsson has had her bed chamber papered with sheets of music from the operas in which she has sung.

—That her dining room is papered with the hotel bills that she has collected in her tours around the world.

—That a well known young lady was looking for an earthquake last week.

—That two recent graduates were severely tested in algebra by a junior last week.

—That he came near cornering them but not quite.

—That he doesn't like to be called bashful.

—That the Student Aid Society will soon lose another member.

—That Miss Cleveland has been failure as an editor. That she will sever her connection with the Literary Life after the publication of two more numbers. That her brother, the President, does not approve of her course in thus placing herself before the public.

—That the sidewalk committee on this day of the Masonic parade was very large.

—That one of the visitors from New Bedford, well known in Boston, figured prominently in the above committee.

—That his dusty shoes that evening were soiled by the above statement.

—That Clara Cole, a San Francisco girl, who was engaged to a Republican party the other day.

—That he is stuck on himself.

—That he saw his name in the paper a few times and came to an education that was of some importance.

—That he said so himself. That he father said that he thought he was only plain J. A. L. but that he has found out that he is now Mr. L.

—That he can't get over the amount of importance which he has lately attached to himself.

—That President Cleveland usually wears a flower on his coat lapel now. That he never did before he was married.

—That there are 725,000 more females in England, than there are males.

—That he called to see a lady, Sunday eve. That he expected to find another lady there also. That she was not there. That the disappointment was something terrible.

—That the two students acted rather

—That the chestnut party was about the best of all the nutting parties this season.

—That he injured his hands in climbing the tree. That the large quantity of chestnut burs shaken down and the delight of the ladies amply repaid him for the trouble taken, for the strength exhausted and the wounds sustained.

—That in this life the rough goes with the smooth.

—That the author of "Climbing up the Golden Stairs" pleaded guilty of forging a check to the amount of \$225.

—That on the day of the parade one of Boston's best known and highly respected residents kept an open house.

—That she entertained the guests, while extra women were hired to pour the tea, and remove the dishes.

—That Mr. Fields, the Ingersollian rival, compared the people of Boston to dogs, in his sermon last Sunday.

—That it is time for him to go West.

—That she intends to have an electric light placed before her front door.

—That the gentleman, so recently from Baltimore, is quite a take.

—That he has already captured a photograph, of one of Boston's belles.

—That the pugilist who is newly located on Hanover street, will be the successor to the late John Bailey in popularity.

—That he says he is devoted to the business. That it is an easy way to make a livelihood. That if he can make \$4,000 in two or three hours, he had rather do so than take years to make it.

—That a certain correspondent of a certain newspaper undertook to make a statement, and then, when told to add, "Great Scott! What an unbiased truth!"

—That he thought "whopper" was the correct word for truth. That he did not mean to say it.

—That he was a wee bit nervous when he wrote and got his ideas tangled.

—That such things are excusable. That they are liable to happen.

—That Mrs. Col. Geo. W. Williams is in Washington.

—That she is the friend of Hon. Fred Douglass and his family.

—That she is the guest of Mr. Douglass' son.

—That Philadelphia has eight women physicians who have an annual practice of over \$20,000, and a dozen or more women dentists who make large sums.

—That the latest novelty is the living corpse of Mr. W. H. Bonaparte, managing editor of the *ADVOCATE*.

—That it was rumored that the gentleman was dead in Washington.

—That the rumor was entirely without foundation.

—That the gentleman who was shot on Suffolk street, was a member of the Republican party the other day.

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Marie Selika,
Will appear at the
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TUESDAY,
October 26, '86

The Commonwealth Quartette and the popular humorist, Mr. Frye, will appear.

Madame Selika has appeared in all the principal cities of Europe, and is the only cantatrice who has sung with Madame Patti. All lovers of high-class music should avail themselves of this opportunity to hear the greatest cantatrice of the world.

Chas. Sumner, our noble friend and champion, who did not flinch once, though stricken down in the Senate of the United States by the blows from the weapon handled by that desperado of all desperadoes, Bully Brooks of Charleston, S. C. Did they stop? I answer, no! They agitated three-fold more, and their voices echoed and re-echoed from Massachusetts to Texas. Did they accomplish anything? Yes, the chains and shackles were stricken off of four

colored men from every part of the United States to come to Massachusetts and enlist, for the Old Bay State wanted the honor of sending out the first colored regiments, these men wended their way to Massachusetts, and were among the first to enlist and help break the chains and shackles from their race. Then they went into battle, their brethren falling all around them on the right and left. Their brave Col. Robert G. Shaw, who left a wealthy home, and was the only child of his parents, mounted the parapet at Fort Wagner with the flag of his regiment in hand cheering his men on. He fell, being riddled with bullets by the enemy. Did they accomplish anything as colored regiments? I say they became the corner-stone that the builders had rejected after all these struggles. Lieuts. Trotter and Dupree and all of our men who have shown their valor and bravery on the battlefield, and every avenue in life, and even while at the front waiting to enter battle, their families and friends deprived of their support, yet the color-line in the midst of death was drawn against them, and the government of the United States refused to give them the same pay as the white soldiers that they were fighting side by side with. Our governor of Massachusetts sent word to our regiments that the State of Massachusetts would make up the deficiency. Every one to a man sent back word, no! The U. S. Government should pay them as other soldiers, else they would die at their post holding to their manhood, trusting that God and the State of Massachusetts would take care of their dear families. They know what it is to contend with this color-line, and that to perfection. Although Lieut. Trotter was head clerk, if I mistake not in the registered department of the post-office at Boston for 15 years or more, still they were ready to infringe upon his rights as a man, and he immediately resigned and looked for himself, standing on his own manhood. Lieut. Dupree is post-master in the South End in the city of Boston, and has held that position for a long time. They do not think it policy to interfere with him just yet. Talking about coming in contact with the whites as so beneficial to our race, I fail to see it. Those men, Mr. Geo. T. Downing and your worthy president and a host of colored men, old and young, that are fully competent to engage in most any kind of business, and be employed in places where white men now are employed who are inferior in knowledge and intellect to them, I

and many of them married, and how they can support a family upon such wages I cannot see, but of course, the wife is expected to bring up the rear by going out to service, or going out washing and ironing or taking it in. Every woman can't do it. Perhaps you have taken one from a comfortable home and kind parents, who cared for her tenderly and every want and wish gratified. But now being taxed with a burden of a family and this extra work outside, her

from Maine to Texas! Unity, race pride, independence and manhood. We, the daughters of these men, who have struggled so hard to give us an education and shield us from the hard usage of this world we live in. Great are the barriers that lay across our path, we being of the weaker sex, not strong like our brothers, we have been greater burdens on our parents. Some of us have had chances for trades, and after learning them thoroughly we have made applications for work at the various establishments where they employ all the rest of the nations that come upon this soil, but we are denied. The excuse is the whites don't want to work with the colored, and they let the employe control them because they themselves are prejudiced with them against us. It is the proprietor that urges this prejudice and color-line upon their employes. Then again in our midst, our colored dress-makers, milliners and hair-dressers will establish a business and have all white apprentices, and bar out their own colored young women. Where do you see the white dress-maker and milliner and hair-dresser with her room or store filled with colored apprentices and her own barred out? Nowhere in the United States, nor out of it, no matter how much better we can do the work. They will take the whites with all their imperfections, and try to bear with them until they do suit them. What is the matter with us? I will answer and tell you race pride is wanting, patience, unity and love for our race above all other races. After all our slighting one another, we have to come to each other by the time the whites get through with us; they make us glad to come to our own, and that willingly. At this present time we can afford to do without our own schools among us as we can without our churches and ministers. How many of us are willing now to give up our churches and ministers and join in with the whites? Not many of us; and the whites would be panic-stricken at the idea of all those negroes coming among them. Negro is a name I abhor to even speak of. It belongs with oppression, and to be buried with the chains that fell off, never to know a resurrection.

The few colored that belong to the white churches are assigned a seat in the gallery, or back seat down stairs. They cannot hold any office in the church, I don't care how long they have been a member there. The highest they can aspire to is sexton, and if any of them dies, the members of our different

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signify on Saturday

Republican party the other day.

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—That he saw his name in the paper a few times and came to the conclusion that he was of some importance.

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—That President Cleveland usually wears a flower on his coat lapel now.

—That he never did before he was married.

—That there are 725,000 more females in England, than there are males.

—That he called to see a lady, Sunday eve. That he expected to find another lady there also. That she was not there. That the disappointment was something terrible.

—That the two students acted rather short with the other five, last Saturday.

—That they wouldn't even introduce them.

—That they suffered a week of jokes for their selfishness.

—That the air about the Baptist Pond, is especially cold. That it is unusually so, on a fall day.

—That Lord Randolph Churchill's attempt to travel *suograpio* was a failure.

—That he must have taken his mouth with him.

—That he has a girl in every port. That he hasn't any in Boston port,—she knew too much for him.

—That (if) she has the ring, that is all she wants of him.

—That he wants something too. That he wants to see her again.

—That a certain young lady is noted for her perseverance. That she has been promised an excellent position. That she will get it. That there is just enough of that go-ahead stuff, in her make-up, to obtain anything she desires.

—That the gentleman who of all gentlemen in Boston interested in the circulation of the *Freeman* in this city met a retail dealer on the street and asked the ratio of the number of *Freemans* sold to that of the number of *ADVOCATES*. That the dealer replied that he sold one *Freeman* to three *ADVOCATES*.

—That the gentleman then said, "I don't like to hear you talk like that." That they believe he told the truth. That they don't believe he did like to hear the dealer talk like that.

—That it was way up the other end of the city. That they walked up there. That when they got there the door was locked.

—That they then walked from there.

—That this happened that a fully hot day week before last. That they have not yet entirely recovered from the effects of that memorable walk.

—That Southern gallantry far exceeds Northern gallantry.

—That the ladies got there, but they didn't walk there.

—That she is the friend of Hon. Fred Douglass and his family.

—That she is the guest of Mr. Douglass' son.

—That Philadelphia has eight women physicians who have an annual practice of over \$20,000, and a dozen or more women dentists who make large sums.

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