

Supporting The New Republican Party, 1858

Aptheker 410-411

A New York Negro Suffrage Convention, with 37 delegates from a score of towns and cities, met in Troy on September 14, 1858, to discuss the current gubernatorial campaign. The following resolutions express the majority opinion of the members of this convention.

Resolved, That we are more than ever convinced of the necessity of intelligent and consolidated action on the part of the colored men themselves, for the security of the rights guaranteed to them, as a part of "*the people*," in the Constitution of the United States. We have a great work between liberty and despotism; and, duly appreciating the duties and responsibilities devolving upon us, we should so act that our influence as a political power, should be felt among the ranks of the people. ...

Resolved, That we are *citizens* of the State of New York and, consequently, of the United States, and should enjoy all the rights and immunities of other citizens, the edict of Judge Taney to the contrary notwithstanding.

Resolved, That we will never cease our efforts to procure the repeal of the property qualification clause [for the suffrage] in our State Constitution, until success shall crown our efforts. ...

Resolved, That in the ensuing gubernatorial election, it becomes us to act with special reference to securing the elective franchise. We can accomplish nothing in this direction save over the defeat and ruin of the so-called Democratic party, our most inveterate enemy. In order to secure this defeat, it is absolutely necessary to consolidate the strength of the opposition to said party. And we regard the Republican party, all things considered, as more likely than any other to effect this desirable end, and advise the eleven thousand colored voters of this State to concentrate their strength upon the Republican ticket for Governor &c, now before the people.

Resolved, That in so doing, we do not for a moment endorse all the political tenets of that party; we are Radical Abolitionists, and shall ever remain so; but we regard the nomination made by them at Syracuse as calculated to give aid and comfort to the enemy, by electing the Democratic candidate.