

A Sad Case; A Great Wrong!

AND

HOW IT MAY BE REMEDIED

BEING

AN APPEAL

IN BEHALF OF

Education for the Freedmen of Louisiana.

WASHINGTON, D. C.:

CHRONICLE PRINT, 456 NINTH STREET.

1866.

1877, m. 20, p. 10

Handwritten text, possibly a name or title, mostly illegible due to fading.

Handwritten text, possibly a name or title, mostly illegible due to fading.

To the Friends of Education of all Parties, Sects, and Creeds of the United States.

IN 1865 there were over a hundred schools for colored children in Louisiana. These schools were splendid in their results. They were supported by loans from the Government, to be repaid from the proceeds of a tax levied by General Banks. After the death of President Lincoln, the Board of Education was abolished, and presently the tax was suspended, school-houses returned to their owners "on taking the oath;" thousands of pupils were cast loose; scores of teachers left in despair; dozens of schools were broken up; and, after two years of hard labor as teacher and school agent, Mr. Randolph resigned his post, and determined to seek aid from the North to enable him to establish at least *one* school not owned by persons inimical to progress and negro education. He proposes to collect means to build a house on its own land, capable of accommodating twelve hundred pupils, wherein colored aspirants to learning may be taught at the least possible money cost. Three of the departments of the proposed school we intend to be normal, that is, for the education of colored men and women for teachers. Herewith is presented, in a brief space and in a condensed form, all that is deemed essential to a correct understanding of the situation; what the colored people of Louisiana need, and the authority upon which this appeal to the public is made.

In this place I desire to return thanks to the President of the United States for the kindness of my reception, as also to members of his Cabinet, Senators, members of Congress, and especially to Mr. Horace H. Day, by whose bounty I am enabled to print this pamphlet. But one could scarce expect different conduct from him, who has for years been foremost in many a good work. To Messrs. Sullivan and Billings, of New Orleans, to Judge Durell, Colonel Thorpe, and others, my thanks are hereby rendered for their encouragement and counsel in the great work I have undertaken.

Respectfully,

P. B. RANDOLPH, M. D.,

Special Agent Louisiana High-grade School.

WASHINGTON, August, 1866.

Many persons, wholly unfamiliar with the circumstances, blame General Baird, the Assistant Commissioner of Louisiana, for the breaking up and ruin of our schools. This is unjust, for he had no power to keep them up without funds. I think he made an error of judgment in imposing a five per cent. tax on the earnings of such freedmen as contracted with planters

under the bureau, instead of imposing a capitation tax of \$2 on the adult population. His plan was a failure, but he undoubtedly did the best he could. Brevet Major Studer, the present Superintendent of Education for Louisiana, is a true man, with the interest of freed people at heart. He does the best he can, but that is not much; still we hope for better things; and when the good time gets here there can be no doubt but that General Baird and Major Studer will be found on the right side, and doing their utmost toward advancing education among us. Till then, let us labor and grow strong; wait and learn wisdom; suffer, if need be, but rely wholly upon God.

Resolutions passed at a mass meeting in Thibodeauxville, on the Bayou La Fourche, concerning the proposed—

LOUISIANA HIGH-GRADE SCHOOL.

Whereas, God helps those who help themselves, and

Whereas, The road to elevation lies **STRAIGHT THROUGH THE SCHOOL ROOM DOOR**—and without education we are powerless—and the time has come in which it behooves us to demonstrate our manhood, and do something toward our elevation in society, and

Whereas, The Government no longer affords us educational advantages commensurate with our actual necessities, but throws us on our own resources; and

Whereas, We, the colored people of this State and parish, greatly need an educational institution, which we will support when established, and being too poor to purchase the necessary land, house, books, furniture, and apparatus; therefore,

Be it resolved, That we elect a Board of Commissioners, whose duty it shall be to take proper steps to establish such a school in our midst as we need, and that said commission be, and hereby is, composed of the following persons: Rev. James Reese, President, Oscar Crozier; Henry Enoch; Rev. William Murrill; Henry Bazile; John Burns; and are hereby duly and fully empowered to act in our behalf and that of the colored people generally.

Resolved, That Dr P. B. Randolph, our fellow-citizen of Thibodeauxville, La Fourche, Louisiana, is the proper person to direct this matter to a successful issue, by reason of his long and well-tried ability as a teacher in New Orleans, and Government school agent in this State; and that he be, and hereby is, appointed **SPECIAL AGENT** and Director.

Resolved, That we, through our special agent, must earnestly appeal to the Christian world; to ministers and laity of all denominations; to merchants, bankers, members of Congress, military and judicial officers, heads of departments, and to the philanthropic everywhere, to aid us in this great attempt to elevate ourselves and educate our children, and to fit us for the exercise of those high privileges which we trust one day to receive as well as deserve.

Resolved, That we, through our agent, invoke the resistless powers of the pulpit, rostrum, and press in our behalf, and humbly beg all editors of papers to forward our design.

Resolved, That as Dr. Randolph is conceded to be one of the most able and eloquent speakers on the continent, we respectfully solicit a hearing, through his lips, wherever he may go.

Resolved, That we put our trust in God, invoking his benign favor and light on our path, to the end that we may praise him *intelligently*, and educate our young men to become shining ornaments in the pulpit and society.

I certify that the above is correct, and that Dr. Randolph is duly accredited as above set forth.

JAMES REESE,

Chairman of Commission and Minister in charge of the A. M. E. Mission.

Rev. Mr. Reese is a deacon in the church, and as such, is subject to me. He is a worthy and faithful man.

JOHN TURNER,

Pastor and Elder in charge St. James' chapel, New Orleans, La.

When the schools went down Mr. Randolph immediately began to cast about for some plan whereby they might be restored, or a good large central school, with normal departments, might be established. He spoke and wrote to many persons about that matter, and subjoins a few of the many responses received :

Dr. P. B. Randolph :

If you have a plan for the establishment of a school in New Orleans, on its own ground and in its own building, I would say, carry it out by all means. I most heartily approve of the educational scheme mentioned, and sincerely hope that your efforts in the North may be crowned with success, and that you may be treated and received with due regard wherever you may go.

A. G. STUDER,

Captain and Brevet Major, and General Superintendent of Education B. R. F. and A. L., Louisiana.

The following is from Major Studer's predecessor :

HEADQUARTERS GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, LA.

Dr. P. B. Randolph has been in the employ of this office, in the capacity of principal teacher in one of the largest and most flourishing schools for freedmen in the State. It affords me great pleasure to be able to say from an official acquaintance with him for several months past, that I have found

him to be a gentlemen of very rare attainments and qualifications as a teacher, and excelled by none in sincere, earnest zeal in the great cause of education and moral elevation of the unfortunate freedmen. I have no hesitancy in recommending him to the friends of the cause of liberty, justice, humanity, and education of the freedmen.

H. R. PEASE,

Captain, and General Superintendent of Education B. R. F. and A. L., La.

The following testimonials of character, and endorsement of the proposed school work are from some of the most illustrious men of the great Republic and the world :

Dr. P. B. Randolph, a colored man, highly recommended as a man; an educator of his people, a true philanthropist; and a gentleman of very rare and unusual attainments as a scholar and orator, is making a very laudable effort to establish a graded school for colored pupils, in Louisiana, wherein, in addition to juveniles, colored men and women may be instructed, and prepared to become teachers of their brethren throughout the South.

The undersigned most heartily approve thereof, and trust that he may be heard in behalf of his cause, and assisted by all who desire the advancement of civilization and refinement among the colored people of these United States.

He is **EARNEST**, eloquent, and true.

ANDREW JOHNSON, President of U. S.

B. F. WADE, U. S. Senator.

J. P. SULLIVAN, New Orleans, La.

T. B. THORPE, New Orleans, La.

E. H. DURELL, Judge, New Orleans, La.

EDWARD C. BILLINGS, New Orleans, La.

I have known Mr. Randolph thirteen years and can testify to his character and qualifications, and believe him a specially qualified instrument for his work.

HORACE H. DAY, New York.

JAMES W. NYE, U. S. Senator, Nevada.

WASHINGTON, July 21, 1866.

Mr. Nye has known Mr. Randolph since 1848.

I cordially recommend Mr. Randolph and the cause he represents to the favor of the friends of the colored race, and of the country. He has energy, capacity, courage, and integrity necessary to perform the work in which he is engaged.

N. P. BANKS, M. C., Massachusetts.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 21, 1866.

I concur in the foregoing, and commend Mr. Randolph and his cause to the consideration of the public.

WM. D. KELLEY, M. C., Pennsylvania.

I cordially sympathize with all movements similar to that of Dr. Randolph's, and believe, with proper encouragement, he will carry it forward to most desirable success.

J. B. FERGUSON,

Cor. Sec. National Union Club, Washington, D. C.

I am fully satisfied of the fitness of Mr. Randolph for the enterprise in which he is engaged, and earnestly commend him and that enterprise to public favor.

A. W. RANDALL,
U. S. Postmaster General.

I fully endorse the enterprise contemplated by Mr. Randolph.

HUGH McCULLOCH,
Secretary Treasury, U. S.

July 23, 1866.

I concur in recommending the enterprise of Mr. Randolph.

U. S. GRANT,
General, Armies of the United States.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 24, 1866.

I heartily endorse the object proposed by Dr. Randolph, and whatever can be done, in accordance with law, I will do to aid the enterprise.

O. O. HOWARD,
Major General, and Commissioner Bureau Refugee Freedmen, etc.

Dr. Randolph's character is unimpeachable; as a THINKER and author, he stands entirely alone among colored people in this country, and it is doubtful if any man of mixed blood now living is his intellectual peer. He should be encouraged in the noble work he has begun.

We heartily endorse Mr. Randolph and his enterprise. He deserves success.

THADDEUS STEVENS,
M. C. Pennsylvania.

SCHUYLER COLFAX,
Speaker U. S. House of Representatives.

E. D. McPHERSON,
Clerk House of Representatives.

JOHN W. FORNEY,
Clerk U. S. Senate.

HENRY J. RAYMOND.

Other documents to the same effect, one of which bears five hundred and eighteen signatures of colored citizens of New Orleans, many of whom are parents of children educated by Dr. Randolph, are in his possession, but are omitted here because enough has been written to set forth the situation, extent, and scope of his mission. Dr. R. has strong hopes of Congress doing something for the Schools; meanwhile the necessity of such a one as he proposes, is very great indeed, for we must and will have colored teachers, these being far less likely to be disturbed and insulted in their vocation than white ones; besides which they can always procure board which others cannot, for they can affiliate with their own people, and do as much in the cabins in the work of culture as by book and blackboard in the school-room. Moreover they will teach at far less rates of compensation, because they can live cheaper.

It has been repeatedly demonstrated that properly qualified colored teachers can advance a colored school faster in a given time than others; probably on account of the mental, physical, social, and psychical affinities which necessarily exist between them. A dozen colored teachers in New Orleans can be pointed to, whose success in teaching has indeed been wonderful. Mr. Randolph himself began with about thirteen, and ended with nearly six hundred pupils; and Chief Justice Chase, who spent an hour in one of his schools, testified his delight and surprise at the proficiency of the pupils of the "School of Progress."

Dr. Randolph proposes to give a lecture occasionally, in his own behalf, to defray personal expenses, but every dollar received for the school will be so appropriated; Messrs. Sullivan, Billings and Hughes, of New Orleans, having kindly consented to act as bankers of the funds, free of charge. G. W. Lascell, Esq., of Bennington, Vermont, will receive all contributions. All donations, therefor, may be sent to him, as, also, school material (carriage paid) that a generous people may advance for the furtherance of this great and holy cause.

Direct to "Dr. P. B. Randolph, for Louisiana High Grade School, care of G. W. Lascell, Esq., Bennington, Vermont."

MEMORIAL TABLET.

It is proposed to place a tablet on the walls of the school, bearing the names of all who shall have donated toward its establishment, as an enduring testimony of our gratitude to them, and thankfulness to our father—God.

Dr. Randolph, while in the North, will be glad to lecture in behalf of this cause whenever and wherever opportunity may afford. His address will be Bennington, Vermont, at which place letters or funds will reach him.