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to signed out to seem teers the sinester that the grinding that the great mass of the people of

After War causes Pagers. And " Pager berty of the positions, of trust and honor, page into the richering may long receive than Whit. "The life keeping of those treacherons instigntons of

### JOHN R. FRENCH, ESQ., bed gradies the delies and labore well in the delies and Freedom, which their talliers had

edition to the Pender Pende Pende butte, when to protect. Not quite

# an of between CHOWAN COUNTY,

stration to generalism. Lepseins writing any who would are your bouse, and tom his black say of sight, by the place of our HP NO h from him, will you set him at large again,

## QUESTION OF SUFFRAGE,

ting our good was as a resident believer in the DELIVERED IN THE

### CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF NORTH-CAROLINA, the lemple of Freedom, where slept

FEBRUARY 18th, 1868. most shed bus steers with their field back from

which land the strike for the thirt calle deliners and the the the the

ensulted amon to make that amount many the first distributed the

odu centili oliva sa tesh oni ni di bole sunt bun It will be noticed, Mr. President, that our | fensive and out of place in a Republican governand that we have made several Reports. I agree with the majority in recommending that the Ballot be free to all citizens—and while all know that the Howard Amendment, (which must become a law of the land before we can return to the Union,) renders certain citizens ineligible to office, differing from the majority, I would not try to blink this fact out of sight, but would have it clearly set forth in the Constitution, that men who went into the Rebellion in violation of solemn oaths to support the Federal Constitution, cannot have the opportunity in North-Carolina of repeating the treachery. I would have the law stand at the portal of the Constitution, like the Angel who with flaming sword guarded the entrance to Paradise. Every time they read the Constitution of the State, I would have these men reminded of their lost condition, peradventure the frequent reminder may work repentance. Neither can I agree with the minority, who, agreeing with me in both these positions, would also demand a system of Registration, and a Test Oath for every voter. Registration is expensive and troublesome, and it seems to me not necessary in North-Carolina, while Test Oaths are of-

what out at bostopilipai erow out a callora butter.

Committee were a good deal divided in opinion ment. And especially can I not agree with that on the important questions submitted to them, other minority of your Committee who recommend Suffrage for all the men lately engaged in Rebellion, and its denial to more than 70,000 of the Loval citizens of the State.

the tax coulding, make in a later

the chestirs insections.

And here permit me to call your attention, Sir, to a statement which recently appeared in one of the newspapers, so-called, of this city, in regard to this Report of the Suffrage Committee. The Editor, claiming to have this Report before him, with his characteristic candor towards his political opponents, and that tender regard for the truth which deems the article too sacred a thing for ordinary use, asserted that in my minority report I recommended the withholding of the right of Suffrage from all rebels Now if this Reverend Ananias had not seen the report he had no right to state its positions—if he had, he knew he was making a statement directly the opposite of the fact. And the Editor goes on with the same Reverend good-manners and like truthfulness to intimate that there is some question as to my right to a seat in this body.

In view of what has transpired in the State of Alabama, since the report now before us was made to the Convention, at the proper time I

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shall move to add another to the classes ineligi- membering that the great mass of the people of ble to office, namely:

the elective franchise.

War, and learned at such cost that they should the sacred interests now entrusted to us. never be forgotten, but handed down from gen- | When you have arrested the midnight incendieration to generation. Lessons written on the ary who would fire your house, and torn his black sky of night, by the glare of burning torch from him, will you set him at large again, towns; uttered in the shrieks of houseless and and return to him his implements of destruction, homeless women and little children; written like that he may creep back and complete his hellish the raised letters of the blind child's alphabet, work, wrap your home in flames, where sleep in the long lines of your soldier's Cemeteries, your wife and babes? These men whom we proand by the lonely graves of "unknown seldiers" pose to exclude from office, are not the petty inscattered all over the land; written in the arm- cendiaries who would burn your house or mine, less sleeves which pass you upon the streets; but the men who would set torch to every home written in the uneffaceable sorrows of the widow in the State,—the gigantic villains who attempand the orphan. Aye, Sir, written in undy- ted to fire the Temple of Freedom, where slept ing remembrance in the heart of every lover of in confiding trust the Hopes of the world. Liberty and Free Government the world over, | Call out from their retreats, and back from who looked on with fearful forebodings as he their exile, these betrayers of your trust, the saw the Great Republic of the earth, the hope of men who tore down the Flag of your fathers Freedom everywhere, struggling in the death- and trampled it in the dust as a vile thing; who

North-Carolina who were implicated in the late All who by bribes, threats, or intimidation at- Rebellion were forced into it by circumstances tempt to prevent others from the free exercise of that they could not well control, still they are not ready to see the control and direction of the After War comes Peace. And "Peace hath State, its positions of trust and honor, pass into its victories no less renowned than War." The the keeping of those treacherous instigators of victories of Good-will, subduing Hate; of Forgive- this treason, who, despite the confidence of their ness conquering Malice; the victories of that fellow-citizens, and their own solemn oaths, broad catholic charity which harmonizes all dis- lifted perjured hands to tear down this Temple cords. These are the duties and labors which of Law and Freedom, which their fathers had come in with Peace. But Peace hath, also, its reared, and they sworn to protect. Not quite lessons to remember—the lessons learned of ready, Sir, for that folly, for that treachery to

clutch of its own fostered, trusted, but traitor-sons. hunted you to the swamps and to the mountains, No. Sir, no. Sir, while ready to yield all the and dragged your sons to ignoble slaughter; amenities of Peace—glad to rebuild waste places | made widows of your women and orphans of -let us never forget the great lesson of this war. | your children, filling your whole State with With the majority of your Committee, I am | want and sorrow; call back such monsters of ready to open the Ballot-box to every citizen, treachery and evil, and again make them your that the majority of the people in all things may Governors and Senators and Representatives, rule. Such is the requirement of a Republican your trusted officials? The proposition is mongovernment. So much is due to Peace, and ne- strous and suicidal, and can never receive the cessary for Harmony, and in accordance as I be- sanction of this Convention of the Loyal people lieve with political wisdom. And such is of the State. The mutineers who would scuttle the wish, I am glad to say, of the constituency, the old ship, and send her ignominiously to the that I have the honor to represent in this Con- bottom-are they the men again to walk her vention of the People. I represent, Sir, a black | quarter-deck? Forbid it Heaven! And the constituency; black, but comely. Comely in very earth will cry out against such wickedness, the humility with which they, recently Slaves, for the bones of your martyred dead, stirred to now Freemen of the Republic, bear their new indignation at such forgetfulness of the treachehonors; comely in the fidelity with which they ry which robbed them of their young lives, discharge their new duties; comely in the for- would rattle upon their coffin lids in rebuke of giving spirit with which they would veil the past, the supporters of such a proposition. Aye, Sir, and in the charity with which they would hum- if the spirits of the sainted dead may revisit the bly share their rights with all classes of the peo- scenes of their earthly interest—if the statesmen ple. Filled with gratitude for the great blessings and the fathers, the wise and patient builders of which have come to them, in their hearts there your foundations, and the patriotic and self-saeis no room left for thought of revenge or pun- rifleing defenders of your earlier and better days, ishment for others. But while they would ex- are hovering about this hall, watching with rapt tend the elective franchise to all citizens, re- interest the decisions of the hour, upon which

ion of people.—Oh! if they could speak, how of youth still fresh and beautiful upon their earnestly would they pray us to keep the State | young brows, stifling all these noble and generous from the treacherous hands of its once betray- impulses, and joining themselves to the dead. ers. Not for Vengeance. Not for Punishment. The appalling events of the War, which these But for Protection. The Past demands guaran- men contrived, its causeless origin, its strange tees of the Future.

The men who dragged North-Carolina from the the destruction of the nation, are all too fresh in Union, despite the wishes of a majority of her your agonized hearts to permit their force being people, and joined hands with those who fired hightened by any recital of which speech is capaupon an unarmed vessel bearing food to a fam- ble. As a crime against liberty, this rebellion ishing garrison; starved defenceless Prisoners at stands in history unmatched. As a conspiracy Salisbury and at Andersonville until the land was through thirty years, it is wholly without a parfull of living skeletons; sent infected clothing allel or proximate. As a crime against all free into Newbern and Beaufort, until thousands of government, it stands alone in its detested preyour people died of the terrible Fever; massa- eminence. To erect an empire of slavery upon cred the Negroes at Plymouth and hung the its country's ruin, it laughed to scorn all the rewhite men at Kinston: cannot escape the moral straints of religion, government and law. It pollution which attaches to such baseness. And took command in the nation's armies, that it these pollutions kill, and kill down through the | might betray and surrender them. It accepted ages. Who can afford now to be a descendant of of its government's nurture so that it might faa Tory of the Revolution? The man who has tally stab the breast from which the nurture was become an enemy of his country, his race, or of drawn. It grasped the position of ministers of human liberty, taints his own and taints his State so that the power these gave might ensure child's blood, with a virus terrible as the mark of | them ability, at a blow, to destroy the State. Cain, the leprosy of Naaman, and the worms of They obtained elections to Congress to the end Herod.

can afford to belong, or approach near to, that | support the Constitution so that they might get band of men who planned and wrought for their an opportunity to destroy it; and in the nation's country's murder. Already the scorn of the council chamber, where they swore to study the nations—a scorn which the centuries shall aug- nation's safety, they literally invented and sent ment forever as they go slowly by-has traced out the plans of its death. Will you permit such the black, deep, ineffaceable dead line around that | men again to administer your government—at band of criminals, whose meant guilt was to per- least until they shall have repented of this great petually overthrow Liberty amongst men, and to crime and brought forth fruits meet for repenfound government upon the enslavement and tance? chattelization of the souls of God's poor. Gui- By extending Suffrage to all, but closing all pass, and not be dead.

previous character. I care not how high he may has settled. The Rebellion represented the powhave towered in the respect and affection of the erful ideas of the superiority of the white race people. He may have graced the highest chair over the black; of the greater fitness of an arisof the State, and honored by his wisdom and his tocratic class than a working class to govern; of virtues the Nation's Senate and the President's the material aggrandisement and pecuniary profit Cabinet, and in the opening days of these troub- of slavery; of the sovereignty of each State; of es been the hope of his people. Yet, if he for- the dread and supposed danger of setting free gets all this and goes in with these conspirators four millions of untutored slaves, and giving to preside in their conclaves-he passes from them rights approximating those of their late

hang the destinies of the State and of her mill- men, full of manly sentiment and spirit, the dew

cruelties, the fiendish malignity of its prosecu-We cannot forget the past, and its great lesson. I tion, the four years of its relentless struggle for that in the Congress they might cut off from the And neither you nor I, Sir, nor any other man, | nation all means of life. They took the oath to

ded by the common conscience of the civilized places of trust against those who have violated world, and cut by that inexorable pen of iron and | former oaths of allegiance, as is my recommendapoint of diamond, with which history engraves | tion in the report before you, I would have this the imperishable decrees of the ages, that fatal | Convention stand in harmony with the action of dead line has been drawn to stand forever. Out | Congress-for right or wrong, to its decision from its fearful enclosure none will ever go and must we bow. To the sword has the appeal been be politically alive, and into it none will ever made—and the conquering power, as of right, dictates the terms. Wy are men wasting their I care not how exalted may have been the man's breath in discussing questions which the sword among living men. And how sad to see young | masters; and of a christianity and code of mor-

least tegorie to a cottoevapo est us ebant la cottoevapo est us ebant la cottoe de la cottoe de la cottoe de l

SPEECH OF JOHN R. FRENCH

and its arbitration was against them.

sars then ruled with undisputed sway. All Thomas Jefferson. working among the Nations ever since—and the baldest ot all impositions. will work on until not a tyrant nor an oppressor | But we are told that this is a "white man's stamped His own image.

grand assertion of the equality of human rights try, where neither the School-master with his

als and ethics in which these ideas were assumed was a "flaunting lie." The Declaration of Indeto be sound, and in the light of which the free- pendence, sir, it seems necessary to tell some ing a slave was on par with stealing a horse, and gentlemen, was not a declaration of social privigeneral emancipation was deemed to be whole- leges, or of intellectual status, or a treatise upon sale massacre. And for these ideas their cham- natural history, but a declaration of political pions fought through four bloody years, and rights; and when it declared that all men are with a pertinacity, and a courage, and a spirit of created equal, it uttered a political truth which sacrifice that the world has never seen excelled. lies at the foundation of all Republican govern-But they failed. They appealed to the sword— ment—the rock on which is founded all personal and civil freedom. A truth, sir, that despite the A political party in the land cherishing oppo- attacks of the gentleman from Washington, will site sentiments, on all these questions, rose into stand to the last syllable of time. I tell gentlesuch majestic strength that it prevailed in every men that it is alike in vain that they attack eith-Northern State, has ruled the destinies of the er that grand central idea of the Declaration, or Union for seven years, overthrown opposing in- the character of its immortal author. Charges of stitutions by decrees as revolutionary of antece- falsehood and demagoguery and irreligion, redent conditions as were ever issued by Czar or bound harmless from the spotless fame of Thom-Emperor, and enforced their changies by armies as Jefferson, as small shot from the turret of a as powerful as were swayed by an Alexander, Monitor. There were giants in those days—yet, Ceazar, or Napoleon, and is now reconstructing in a clear conception of the fundamental princithe Union on a basis of Universal Suffrage, ples of free government Thomas Jefferson towerwhich secures the ascendancy of its ideas, ulti- ed above them all. Jefferson and Adams and mately, not merely in the transient politics but Franklin and Sherman and Livingston, were the in the fundamental Constitution and laws of the committee who reported the Declaration. These, lately rebellious States. Never before in the "Liars!" "Humbugs!" "Demagogues!" Ah, world's history has there been so sublime a these men ask no defence. They command the vindication of the power of an idea to mould homage of all men who love Liberty. Their parties, revolutionize governments, raise and fame has passed into the keeping of History, and mass armies, overthrow institutions, and change she will guard it well. High on her roll of honor our great struggle was, on both sides, a war of has she inscribed all their names—a galaxy of pathe social destiny of races. In the fullest sense | triots and statesmen more glorious than any galaxy that gems the dome of night. Dipping The triumphant idea was the idea proclaimed her impartial pencil in the sunlight, in the clear by Paul, the apostle of Jesus Christ, when stand- blue, highest of them all, she has written the ing in the midst of Mars Hill. One of the Cea- name of the Scholar, Statesman and Philosopher,

about the Apostle stood temple and statue, the It was this doctrine of the equality of political glories of Grecian art. Wealth and culture and rights, emblazoned upon their banners which patrician blood swayed society, and man as man | won for our fathers the sympathies of the world, was of so little account that the Roman master and carried them victoriously through their sevchopped his slave into minced meat for food for | en years war. Its bold ennunciation shook every his petted fish. But Paul, brave old Apostle, in throne in Europe,—and will yet topple every one the midst of their pride and oppression pro of them to the ground. It is the cornerstone of claimed that of One Blood were made all the our political government. Reject it, and there Nations. The proud Athenians laughed at Paul is nothing for you to build upon this side of kingas a babbler, as a "radical." But that truth ut | ly prerogative. And the Republicanism which tered eighteen hundred years ago, has been brands it is an imposture and a humbug, is itself

shall remain to curse this green earth, and man government." That is the vulgar appeal to preeverywhere lift unfettered hands in adoration of judice whereby the fomenters of all the troubles the God who made him, and upon his brow now oppressing the South hope to reinstate themselves in power and patronage. The grand hailing In a debate in this Convention, the other day, cry of distress which the Democratic Party sends a gentleman arose and attempted to cast ridicule forth to the ignorance and blind prejudice of the apon the immortal declaration of our fathers that land, hoping, that in the festering purlieus of the all men are created equal, and asserted that its cities and in the Egyptian districts of the coun-

found his way, there may be found enough of republican government. It is an assumption these elements, if vigorously organized, to again false in religion, false in statesmanship, and false give them the public control. "A white man's in economy. Show me a creature, with erect Government."

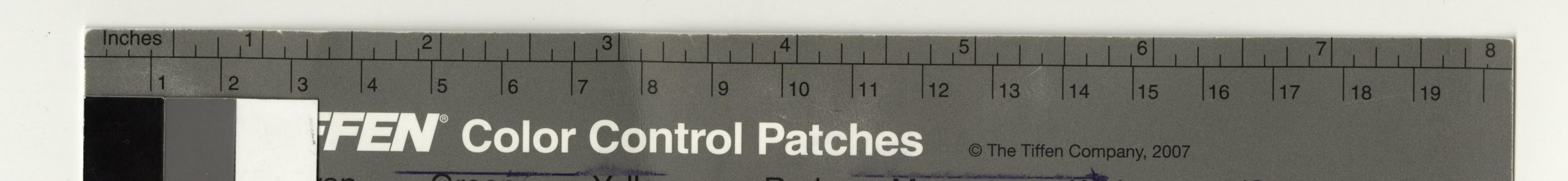
stitution for the white people of the United States | State. of America? Does your Declaration of Inde- When the nation was in the hour of its direct pendence declare among its self-evident truths | peril, the gallant Gen. Sherman was consulted as that all white men are created equal, and endowed to the wisdom of arming the negro. "If you with certain unalienable rights? Do gentlemen place the musket in his hands, and he perils his forget that when the national Constitution was life for the nation," replied the brave and true adopted, that in every State of the old thirteen, man, "it would be very mean afterwards to save South Carolina, which was always an excep- withold from the same hands the ballot." And tion to any wholesome rule, the tree colored man so answers the heart and conscience of every voted? And in a State where they voted at will man in whose veins flows blood, and not water. so lately as in North-Carolina, this cry of "a And he was armed—200,000 black men stepped white man's government" is too great an impo- forth to the defence of the nation, and under sition upon our intelligence. What have politi- perils unknown to the white soldier. They led cal rights to do with the color of a man's face, or the terrible assaults at Port Hudson and at Fort the quality of the coat upon his back? His rights | Wagnor, and with their dead bodies filled the pertain to him as a man-and have nothing to do | trenches at Petersburg and Richmond, that the with the accidents of his birth, the weight of his soldiers of the Union might march over to vicpurse, or the extent of his mental culture.

box with colored men.

Primer nor the Preacher with his Testament has to religion and an oligarchy inconsistent with countenance looking to heaven, made in the im-Does that grand charter of your government | age of God, and I will show you a man, who, of and your liberties, your Constitution, begin: We | whatever country or race, whether darkened by the white people of the United States, in order to tropical sun, or blanched by northern cold, is form a more perfect Union, establish justice, in- with you a child of the Heavenly Father, and sure domestic Tranquility, provide for the com- equal with you in all the rights of human nature. mon defence, promote the general welfare, and You cannot deny these rights without impiety. secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and Andso has God linked welfare with duty that our posterity, do ordain and establish this Con- you cannot deny these rights without peril to the

tory.

Men argue with great absurdity that by recog- And now, when in the spirit of the most gennizing another citizen's right to approach the erous forgetfulness, we propose to open the way Ballot box, they recognize the fellow's intellect to the ballot-box to all—even the men who latetual, moral and social equality. That if he has a ly confronted the nation, sword in hand; why right to vote—a voice in the laws which are to they, even they, come forward and object to the tax and govern him-he therefore has a right to colored man's suffrage! Was there ever assua seat in every parlor of the land, and to the hand rance like this? But will the friends of the Reof every man's daughter in marriage! The way- public thus spurn their faithful ally? History, faring man though a fool, it seems to me, can- Sir, will compel us to say that it was the black not fail to see the absurdity of such an argument. skin that could always be trusted; it was the Men who all their days have been familiar with black man who never betrayed; wherever you colored people in all the relations of society, who found a negro, there was a soul loyal to the drew the sustenance of their earliest life from Union and true to our country's flag. Never in colored breasts, would try to make us believe the annals of history was there such an example that they are shocked at the idea, now in their of universal fidelity and faith. Among the manhood of depositing their ballots in the same twelve Apostles of our Saviour there was a Judas. There was a traitor among the Spartan According to the best testimony the present band of Leonidas. Our revolutionary army had population of the earth, embracing Caucasians, its Benedict Arnold. The cause of Hungary had Mongolians, Malays, Africans and Americans, its Goergey who betrayed it at Villagos. The is about thirteen hundred millions, of whom only cause of Henry VI, and Warwich, was lost by three hundred and seventy-five millions are the desertion of Clarence. Harold, the Saxon, "white men," or about one fourth, so that in was betrayed by his own brother, Tosti. Maxclaiming exclusive rights for white men, you de- imilian had his Lopez; and, in short, as far back grade nearly three quarters of the human family, as history carries us into the dominions of the made in the image of God, and declared to be of past, treason has played its part. There was no one blood, while you sanction a caste offensive cause, no army, no faith, without its traitors,



until the universal experience of mankind was the law, a constant, ever-present, self-protecting defied, for the first time in history, by the exam- power. When men know that they may be voted ple of the negro race. Of four millions of ne- down, they will know that they must be just, and groes there was not one who betrayed the man everything is contained in justice. Reconstrucwho came to him with the magic words:

stranger, and ye took me in."

give the colored man the ballot, as a way where- no negro should own land or hire a house, thus by we may avoid such a war, for the ballot will politically breaking up his home, and compelling prove a great peace-maker. Plutarch records him to work as a menial; when they required that the wise man of Athens charmed the people him to hire out for a year during the first weeks by saying that equality causes no war-and of January, and in default allowed him to be sold "both the rich and the poor repeated it." And for a term of years; when they adopted systems so master and slave will yet enjoy the transform- of apprenticeship for blacks, which were not aping power of this principle. The master will plied to whites; when they laid taxes upon polls recognize the new citizen. The slave will stand and not upon property, and authorized employers with tranquil self-respect in the presence of the | to retain from the wages the taxes thus imposed master. Brute force disappears. Distrust is at an | upon the laborers; when they provided for the end. The master is no longer a tyrant. The lash and whipping-post for blacks, but not for freedman is no longer a dependant. The ballot whites; when they excluded colored witnesses comes to him in his depression and says, "Use from courts of justice; when they organized rebme, and be elevated." It comes to him in his el regiments, which surrendered under Lee, en passion, and says, "Use me, and do not fight." | masse, into State militia, who disarmed the It comes to him in his daily thoughts, filling him | black troops that conquered under Grant; when with the strength and glory of manhood. Read- they revived the fugitive slave law for blacks who ing and writing are of inestimable value—but the | did not work out their contracts, but no punishballot teaches what these cannot teach, and what ment for whites who did not pay the wages due is of especial importance to the freedman, it on the same contracts; when they reluctantly, teaches him to be a man. As physical labor stif- and only under impudent protests, assented to fens the bones and developes the muscle, so the the repeal of the ordinances of secession; when exercise of manly duties developes manly virtues. | they drove out Northern emigrants, assailed the The Conservative mother who, discovering that | Freedman's Bureau, burned freedmen's Schoolher child of twelve months cannot walk, should houses and churches, organized bands of negrofor that reason continue to keep it in its cradle, killers, and finally culminated these outrages in may rock it on until it is twenty years old, and the massacres of Republicans and negroes at she would then have but a great baby. It is the Memphis and New Orleans; when the Southern exercise of our limbs and faculties which brings | courts were deciding the Civil Rights bill to be out their powers.

ciety, government, civilization may all prosper, cies of the case began to move toward reconstruc-Then give the ballot to all your citizens.

The ballot is a protector, and in the present | whereby this Nation might be saved. freedman vote, and he will have in himself under table foundation every one of the late insurgent

tion was attempted upon the basis of the white "I'm a Union soldier, help me, hide me, save vote only—and it was not until the evils resulting me, my colored friend!" Show me a case in from the plan began to develop in black codes history which is equal to this, of a whole race of that substantially restored slavery that to the millions of black men and women, throughout minds of the masses of the Union people, the fatal the land, there was not one who would not have blunder was discovered, and the public sentiment risked his own life for the white Union soldier began to move forward to universal suffrage. or refugee who invoked his protection; not one But when the white vote organized State and to whom it may not be said the day of judgment, | City governments that elected none but rebels to "I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat; I power, such as Gen. Humphreys, in Mississippi, was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a Mayor Monroe in New Orleans, Raphael Semmes in Mobile, and the like; and when the ex-rebels, We hear of a possible war of races, I would coming together in the Legislatures, enacted that unconstitutional, and Southern State Officers The ballot is a reconciler, Next after peace is were trampling upon its provisions, and defying reconciliation. Do you wish to see harmony tru- the Congress that enacted it, then the Union senly prevail in North-Carolina, so that industy, so- timent of the country fully aroused to the exigenand the State wear a crown of true greatness? tion on the basis of universal suffrage—seeing that there was no other way given among men

moment this, above all other, is the reason why And Reconstruction upon this basis, is to be a it should be given to the colored man. Let the success, Sir. Building upon this broad and equiStates will re-establish government and return to | And build beneath its starry folds great pyramids the Union. The old flag, first unfurled by Wash- of graves; ington, at Cambridge, is again to be lifted up and For God looks out, with sleepless eye, upon His float in power from the Potomac to the Rio children's deeds, Grande; and the people will hail its coming as And sees, through all their good and ill, their the return of an old friend, and in its clear blue no sufferings and their needs; Star shall be firmer set, or irradiate a more pa- And He will watch, and He will keep, 'till human triotic light, than the Star of North Carolina.

Unfurl, bright stripes—shine forth, clear stars swing outward to the breeze-

Go bear your message to the wilds—go tell it on the seas,

men in their pride-

'neath you, side by side;

church upon the hill,

by the rill,

While weary hearts from every land beneath the shining sun

of Washington.

they be,

standard of the Free,

in rushing waves,

rights have won,

The dear old Flag! the starry Flag! the Flag of Washington!

Science teaches us that that great range of Mountains known as the Apalachian Range, That poor men sit within your shade, and rich | which stretches from Canada to the Gulf, was the first land in the morning of creation lifted That beggar-boys and statesmen's sons walk above the shoreless sea that surrounded our globe. And above all this range, the highest of You guard the school-house on the green, the all, 400 feet higher than Mt. Washington, towers in solitary grandeur old Black Mountain, of And fold your precious blessings'round the cabin North-Carolina,—its black dome undoubtedly the first land lifted from the unsounded depths.

MEN OF NORTH-CAROLINA, to-day, amid these ruins ve relay the foundations of our Common-Find work, and rest, and home, beneath the Flag wealth. We would build a Temple of Freedom, wherein we and our ehildren may dwell in Peace and Safety through all the coming generations. And never, never on the earth, however brave Let us lay our corner-stone upon principles as broad and enduring as the foundations of Black Shall friends or foes bear down this great, proud | Mountain, that the Dome of our fair Temple may rise grandly like his, high in the heavens, 'Though they around its staff may pour red blood | defiant of all storms, and the admiration of all who love Free Government.

## REMARKS OF JOHN R. FRENCH, OF CHOWAN COUNTY.

## In Constitutional Convention, on the question of Property Qualification. February 13th, 1868.

Mr. French, of Chowan, remarked that | men from whom he differed, it seemed to there was truth in the observation of the him that these ideas of property and freegentleman from Chatham, that laws are not hold qualification, were in conflict with evso much needed for the protection of the ery principle of Republican government, and "big bugs" as for the poor people. Rich totally at variance with the spirit and genius men are able to take care of themselves, but of the times, when man's rights are being it is the poor and the friendless who need enlarged, not restricted; the privileges of the defence of the Constitution and the laws citizenship extended, not curtailed. This of the land. And he rejoiced to believe with idea of property qualification was a monthe gentleman from Carteret, that this Con- strous fallacy which had come down to us vention of the people was fully ready on this from darker ages when the rights of men very day to bury beyond all hope of resur- were less known, and far less regarded - and rection, so far as North-Carolina is concern- it should have been carried to its political ed, this odious doctrine of freehold and grave long ago. It was engrafted upon property qualification, either in voter, or of- most, if not all, the early Constitutions—but fice-holder. With all respect for the gentle- the steady advance of Republican sentiment

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had wiped the blot from every Constitution of the land, save the Constitution of our own tleman would not have the Convention forget State, and those of New-Hampshire, South-Carolina and Delaware.

extra qualifications for a Senator; the old ing. Our fathers wrought according to the idea which our worthy fathers borrowed light of their day, and have entered upon from the aristocratic institutions of the reward of their honest toil. Another mother country. The House of Lords rep- future opens before us. Not property, not a resented the Aristocracy of England—the few families, however old, or however reates, it was thought, must represent the the hereafter-but the free and mighty peowealth, the first families of the new States; ple—the hardy fishermen of the Sounds and not we, of the "cotton shirts and copperas | the Coast, the unpurchasable ploughers of breeches," but the gentlemen of the silk her fields and her vallies, the stout hewers of stockings. Hence the aristocratic and ex- her forests, the delvers in her mines, the hustremely conservative elements which every- bandman who feeds his flocks upon the where grew up with Senates, until the peo- green slopes of her mountains; these are to ple began to talk of the House, in contra- be her voters and her Legislators. The peodistinction from the Senate, as the popular ple are to govern; not money, not lands, not branch of the government. For one, he families, not jackasses. tle sympathy with the notion that we need met spirits who had been in that state 25 a Senate chiefly to hold in check the House. | years, and yet didn't know that they were That is an idea born of distrust of the dead. And so we have men in North-Caropeople-it is the old fallacy that the people lina, who don't seem to know what they, are incapable of self-government. Formerly politically, and many of their old favorite in North-Carolina to vote for a Senator it notions, are dead, and that this Convention required the ownership of fifty acres of land, is called for their burial. Mr. F. said he but the amendment of '57 wiped all that had occasion the other day to call attention out, and now the venerable and respected to those Conservatives of the Plains, the gentleman from Caswell, fearful of "innova- Pawnee Braves, who attempted to stop the tion," woulk have us, like the crab, crawl progress of that grandest "innovation" of some worthless swamp Pocasin, but to \$250 to remind gentlemen that the road was now worth of property—it may be three likely several hundred miles in advance of the young Jackasees of about that value. The point where the attempt was made to stop to-day is a man penniless, and he camed it, and at its terminus for the winter, a civvote. To-morrow, by some good fortune, ilized town had already sprang into exishe becomes the proud owner of three likely tence of more than 5,000 inhabitants. the Jackasses, and can vote for a Senator. Now, City of Cheyenne. He thought gentlemen Mr. F. would submit it to the gentleman might gather a lesson from this fact. from Caswell, whether it is the man, or the

Jackasses, that does the voting? The genthat it was building for future generations, neither be unmindful of the glorious inspi-The gentleman from Orange would demand rations of the times in which they are workbetter blood of the realm-and so our Sen-spectable, are to rule the North-Carolina of

would have no unpopular branch in our new That strange man Sweden work in one of government, but would make Sengto and his wonderful book, tells us that during House both popular branches. He had lit- one of his visits to the Spirit-world he there backwards, not to the 50 acres of land indeed, the age, the Pacific Railroad. He wished

All French, of Chorung, manualised that men whom along the different, it seemed to -vert burn errogond to enoble or at the him, while the property and the environment regularing from Chathem, that laws are nort hadd shouldigation, were in condict with ever but the proceded for the protection of the ery pagestyle of Republican covernment, and " delications and the page page, people. " High something surfames with the spirit and goning anen art attlet take out out themselves, but for the grades which and attents are being In appointing both the finishment was the finishment bear being the part and and the property and eid's Jedinfele Counties and Alexandries and the Lance estimated and something and -ment of the multimiditary them and an all the transfer of the state o or or around the their their the contract th arms to entitle said that a self that are a self that the self are the self to self the self to self the self t THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O Moster Applications are at a page and a legal to a contract to the state of the sta aroung the property of the second of the new policy and project and project and the second se