

Mr. Pres, Fellow members of the Philanthropic Society, and gentlemen of the Court. I must confess that to come after such a distinguished gentleman as the one who has just taken his seat is somewhat embarrassing. But if they brother can show his the error of his way,

This is a living issue, One that I dare say ere long will thrill the heart of every loyal American citizen. One the Opp. of which our opponents say would be a step forward, but we conscientiously say it would be a step backwards; for it would deprive men of their personal rights, the fundamental principle of ~~our~~ Government Democratic Government, A thing held sacred by all our race, surely by our nation.

Go with me, - briefly, and let's see what this spirit has done for civilization, for humanity. When the barbarous tribes of Northern Europe first came into history we find this idea predominant among them, and for them, a barbarous people it purified the home and made it a sacred place for the ^{protection} preservation of which the men would even lay down their lives. In the Middle Ages it divided itself into two great divisions, Religious & Political.

Let us see briefly what it has done Religiously. The ancient civilization based on the idea of placing one man far superior to the others & making others serve him had grown to

It is the foundation of modern civilization & got its power from God. It is the cause of this century's progress

maturity. It had carried man as far as it could. Then Christ, an ~~an~~ advocate of personal responsibility & therefore personal freedom came. Before him men had to pray even by proxy. But when he was ruled to ~~be~~ always. The role of the temple was ~~went~~ in twain thus signifying that each man should come to God in person, then ~~he~~ said it is finished. And each man became his own free agent & personal right became sacred. Whatever has come in contact with that spirit since has failed, even to that form of Christ's religion based on the false idea that each man was not directly responsible to God. What was it that lead Martin Luther to deny the power of the pope but this spirit? And see where it lead him & his movement. And when Luther himself said that they were going too far did the people stop? Nay this spirit of personal right was too strong & it swept on carrying the people with it & it is continuing to sweep on & will ~~go~~ continue to go until this old world shall reach her destiny: { That is, it is the direct work of Christ & the cause of our modern civilization, it is ~~the~~ elevating man & will ~~continue~~ trying to elevate him.

It is the fundamental principle of our government. It is the very idea upon which the U.S. was built.

Now what has it done Governmentally? The changes in government have been along with those in religion. When this idea got into the air of the world it tore down the kingdoms of ancient civilization & from the ruins sprang up republican governments. As living monuments we have Switzerland, France, & Eng. For Eng. is a purely republican government.

The idea of personal freedom deprived the King of Eng. of his power & left to posterity the Magna Carta, the Declaration of Rights.

Yea the sacredness of personal rights has caused men to forsake, friend, relative, father, mother, home, & all near & dear to them, & seek a place where they could control & be controlled by themselves, a land that knew no King, a country where every man was a King. And God, for he does all things well, saved a part of his creation for man until this spirit should prevail, then he said ~~to~~ "to man; 'See there; there is a land rich in forests & full of fertile valleys, Go, build you a government;'" The eye of man was opened & behold America was discovered.

No sooner discovered than it acted as a mighty magnet ^{drawing to it} that people most suited to form such a government. Settlements were made & a government formed & when old Eng. dared to trample on her rights, As the star of Bethlehem lead the 3 wise-men of the east to the object of their search so the 13 stars & stripes lead our patriarch fathers to the object of their search in a government & the U.S. the home of the brave & free was formed.

Now my honorable opponents say that that freedom should be preserved for the educated. That in order to be free that we must not be free but be incumbered with a certain amt. of Education.

Now we have seen briefly how

They declare
against the
Declaration
of Independence
They are opposed
to the principle
upon which our
government was
formed & which
has made us
the greatest
people on the
face of the globe

That is, they are bitterly opposed to freedom + independence.

this spirit of personal freedom has lead to the formation of the U.S. Therefore it is the foundation of our government. Now let us see what our government is. Ideally it is a government of by est. But in reality is it not a government of the Masses by the Classes? Surely that must be ~~what~~ our opponents ideal ~~must be~~, since they wish to exclude a certain class from the government.

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A State is nothing but the people politically organized agreeing to make such laws as will be of the greatest good to the greatest number. This they all agree to & thus preserve their personal freedom. And the vote is only the voice of the people in the government. Now since the state is the people organized, if we deprive any part of the people of their voice in the government let the cause be what it may. It is no longer a government of the people est, but it is a class government & will soon be ~~as~~ a plutocracy, aristocracy, or something other than a democracy. For a dem. is a government in the hands of all the males whose age gives them the right to be trusted by their fellow citizens. Sirs it is his ^{mature ideas} age not his money, social standing, nor education, nor ~~anything~~ ^{anything} but that age when he can be trusted by his fellow citizens.

That is every man is free & should have a voice in the government as soon his ideas are mature

Now my opponents can't dare to say that there should be an Ed. Qual. for a man

to be a member of the church, a citizen in God's Kingdom, neither can he justly say that there should be an Ed. Qual. for a man to become a member of our government, for they are both based on the principle "that man is his own free agent," that is, that man's personal freedom stands out first. This freedom is even granted to him with soul to do with it as he please much less freedom in the government of his person & personal goods

W. Scott have an Ed. Qual.

Now if our Gov. is to be a Dem. If its citizens are to be free & to have preserved their personal freedom Can we have an Ed. Qual.? I say no, emphatically no!; for it would exclude from a right to vote 2. out of every 15 in the U.S. & 35. out of every 100. in N.C. Could that be a Democracy with $\frac{2}{3}$ voting ruling & $\frac{1}{3}$ having no voice whatever? No, sir, but it would be an instantaneous change into a government of the masses by a class. It would sweep from our government that long cherished idea that we are free people & the shapers of our destiny politically. It would be a step back towards the governments of the Middle Ages. It would take out from under the structure of our government its foundation stone & leave our Dem. nothing to rest upon, which would necessarily force it to settle down into a plutocracy or aristocracy.

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This idea of personal freedom is as the heart, & with each beat sends out the rich blood, through all the veins of our government, & thus preserves its life. Should we by any means cause this heart to cease to beat, the blood would cease to flow & our Government would become a cold lifeless corpse & ere long would become a fit subject for the greedy vultures of other governments to pounce down upon a carry off piece by piece.

It is not
right,
~~to~~ it

Can it be right to have an Ed. Qual. for suffrage? The idea of personal freedom, I believe, stands out first in the heart of every true man. Could it be right to deprive the poor ignorant man of his right to vote, most sacred privilege, when it is the very same agent that has brought us where we are. Yea it is the very spirit that this grand old U. herself loves to boast of, saying it is this freedom of thought, freedom of discussion, freedom of opinion, personal freedom, that broadens the man & makes the difference between a U. & a denominational college. If you ~~deprive~~ ~~one then deprive all.~~ But in preference ~~"give us liberty or give us death."~~

Cause of
Revolutionary
War
Taxation
without
representation

Now these men have to pay taxes, is it right to deprive them of a voice in the government that is to tax their property? Or would it be right to protect them without their

paying a tax. No; neither is right & the only solution is the happy medium of the two, by giving him his vote & making him pay his tax. Now here is "A" who pays \$1000 but he can't read & here is "B" who pays a \$2 poll tax. * Can it be right for "A" to pay 5 times as much as "B" & not have a voice in the matter, while "B" has? No; we are all bound to admit.

Not the safest

Again, Would it be the safest plan? No; for by leaving it as it is we avert all other objectionable features except making mistakes & education does not prevent ~~that~~ mistakes. The heart of the people is good & their heart is in the government. All honor is due to them for when they make a mistake they own & try to correct it. As we who are members of this Ct. can testify to our joy for by that change we were saved. Let come what may this government is safest in the hands of the people. They are a safe guard to our political parties. They are to the body politic what governors are to a steam engine; for when political steam threatens the destruction of our governmental machine they fly out to the falls push down the valve, shut off the steam & our government runs smoothly.

That is the gov. is safest in the hands of the people
 Just as a man's property is safest under his own protection
 Just as the government is safest under the protection
 of its subjects.

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Summary

In conclusion I claim that I have fully shown to you "That personal freedom was given by God to every man, and that it is ^{because of} ~~because of~~ this that modern civilization has made its rapid progress. That upon the idea of individual freedom the U. S. was formed, therefore it is the ground work of our governmental structure

That to deprive any class of that freedom would be to destroy democracy & take the U. S. off of the foundation of modern civilization.

That our Ed. Law is not right. And lastly that it is not the safest plan. And these I defy our opponents to deny or disprove.