

INGALLS DENOUNCED.

THE COLORED PRESS DEMANDS JUSTICE AND FAIR PLAY. LET EVERYBODY READ THIS.

—St. Louis, (Mo.) Advance:

The President, in his message to the Senate beseeching the confirmation of Matthews, says: "That he desires in this way to tender just recognition and good faith towards our colored fellow-citizens." That August body, at least the 26 republicans who assented to the Ingalls letter, reply that the Senate was not aware of the question of "just recognition and good faith towards our colored fellow citizens" was involved in the question; that the classification of color was abolished by the New Amendment and is "No longer properly to be recognized in dealing with public affairs."

No, these Senators were not aware, of the fact that the just recognition of the rights and merits of our colored fellow citizens has entered largely into the discussions and legislation of Congress, including the Senate this last half century. They are not "aware" that Senator Hoar asks them to consider his bill appropriating \$100,000 for a colored Soldier's Monument, because the classification of color must not be recognized in dealing with public affairs. These sublime Senators in the sublimity of their indifference, are not "aware?" that hundreds of thousands of colored soldiers fought in the Union Army and were designated by the Senate itself as "U. S. colored infantry." Ingalls, Chase and Hoar were not "aware?" that these soldiers were colored men and that four regiments still remain in the army officially known as colored troops.

Senator Sherman introduced a bill in comport with the President's message, to reimburse the depositors of the Freedman's Bank, but the Supernal Republican Senators were not "aware?" that freedmen are colored people, for they have not been officially informed. Senator Dawes gets a bill through the Senate that "persons of African descent," citizens of the Cherokee nation, shall have their share of \$300,000 out of which they were defrauded, and yet these oblivious Solons were not "aware?" that "persons of African descent" were colored people. Philip Josep of Alabama gets his bill before the Senate for a large appropriation for the Colored World's Fair to be held at Birmingham in September, and Philip is "of that color which is common to his race of the deepest dye" but forsooth, Mr. Ingalls and his color-blind colleagues are not "aware?" that this man is a Negro and this fair is an exclusive colored people's enterprise.

Chief Justice Taney was aware that Dred Scott was a black man; Chief Justice Waite was aware that it was a question of color in the case where the Supreme Court decided that the laws of Alabama, punishing intermarriage of races were constitutional; and Senator Ingalls, Sherman and others have descended so far into the depth of intellectual oblivion that they are not aware that black laws still exist in the statutes of Kansas and Ohio.

"The Senate has no official information," says these solons who

sign Ingalls' letter, "other than that in the message of the President, whether Matthews is white or black." Is there, for conscience sake, is there any higher information, known to the Senate, than that contained in the Message of the President of the United States? What "other" official information do these innocent and unsophisticated Senators require? Shall Moses rise from the dead, shall an angel proclaim from the heights of heaven? The clouds break at last and we discover that these Senators do know something. They know without being officially informed that Frederick Douglass is a colored man, and "they cannot forbear to apprise the President" that he is the most distinguished representative of the colored race, not only in this country, but in the world, and further that J. C. Matthews is "an unknown and obscure partisan."

Here is an official document issued with the high seal of the American Senate, by Senators whose business should be legislation and not laudation or denigration that establishes a censurship of character upon the merits and demerits of the individual Negro citizen. Has it come to this that we are to be officially informed, by the August Senate, that this Negro is great and that other Negro is an obscure partisan, that in Douglass resides the Negro race, and when he dies the race dies in him and with him? In this, the United States Senate becomes the supreme architect and arbiter of the destiny of each individual Negro, and, Senator Ingalls will hereafter inform us which Negro is great and which obscure.

But they cap the climax when they say, that Matthews, "had never been a slave and therefore represents the enfranchised race only by the accident of color." It is the same accident that afflicts these senators and gives them the opportunity to misrepresent the people by such samples of demagoguery.

This statement is seditious, it smacks a little of the "horrors of San Domingo," when the blacks were arrayed against the mulattoes, and it further takes us back to the old slave times when the slave Negro was taught to despise the free Negro. Here is the insinuation of caste among the Negroes. The slave born are to be favored, the free born are to be despised. It means to dissociate the educated and illiterate Negro, to play upon the prejudice of the unfortunate, to instill the false idea that there is merit in the bare fact of being born a slave.

There were 500,000 free Negroes before the war and natural increase since that time has, at least, added 4,000,000 free born Negroes to our population; one half of the 4,000,000 ex-slaves have died, and the remainder must inevitably pass away, thus leaving the free-born Negro population vastly preponderating in numbers. If according to the edict of these senators the representative character of a Negro must be based upon the fact of his having or not having been a slave Matthews belongs to the most numerous class and becomes therefore the most representative character, as between himself and Fred Douglass.

It is too late, we have a new south and a new Negro and the new Negro is coming forth in platoons of ten thousand deep from the colleges and schools of the Nation, with reverence for the past, but with all his energies bent on the prospect of the future. You cannot explain to this post-bellum product, why white republicans "Shake hands over the bloody Chasm," welcome into National Citizenship and confirm for the highest places men who boast of their record to destroy the Nation, and, at the same time these republicans, try to crush the Negro who by his political action tries to soften the asperities of race antagonisms which so much oppress his people. This letter ostensibly for the President is simply meant for the Negro, and the young and vigorous element of that race will not be entrapped by the fulsome blandishments which it bestows even upon the venerable head of Douglass.