

K AGE.

"THE AFRO-AMERICAN AGITATOR."

Year, \$1.50;
this, 40 Cents;
iberia," \$2.00;
ck Phalanx,"
ble strictly in

to remit by
Postal Note or

New York as

Publishers,
New York.

21, 1889.

tion Bill.

ederal Elec-
Senate by
ampshire.

rovides that
itizens from
nal district,
fair election
ices of the
l authority
election at
ates Circuit
ict.

ill not reach
e. A more
is required

uffling, and
ant a meas-
me author-
of the bayo-
sure to the
lic the right
counted as

democrats op-
will. They
ey are the
sent system.
of the Re-
cannot be
e and disas-
—
nd a Pure

LEVELAND of
last week,
ever admin-
ts at ballot-
ad, and gen-
eral system,
course, Mr.
the South.

corru-
living vel-

est as Mr.
Democratic
DAVID BEN-
SON, A. P.
nd how can

"The Afro-American Agitator" is a brand new thing under the sun. He has sprung full-fledged from the head of Jove in so short a time that the country has hardly had time to recognize the new arrival.

Where did he come from?

What does he look like?

What is his mission?

He came into existence two years ago, when the idea of the Afro-American League was flashed over the wires of the Associated Press Association, reaching to the utmost parts of the Nation,—marking the death-knell of the shuffling, cringing creature in black who for two centuries and a half had given the right of way to white men, and proclaiming in no uncertain voice that a new man in black, a freeman every inch, standing erect and undoubted, an American from head to foot, had taken the place of the miserable creature dead.

What does he look like? *He looks like a man!* He bears no resemblance to a slave, or a coward, or an ignoramus.

What is his mission? His mission is to force the concession to him of absolute justice under State and Federal Constitutions.

The Afro-American Agitator has come to stay until his work, like that of the famous Abolitionists, has been crowned with success in every corner of the Republic.

It remained for Mr. Henry W. Grady of the *Atlanta Constitution*,—whose magnetic eloquence, whose varied learning and whose intense loyalty to the South, the white South, provoke my profoundest admiration,—it remained for Mr. Grady to take notice in a public manner of the new man, "the Afro-American Agitator," who has come upon the scene as noiselessly as a tiger treads the velvet carpet of the umbrageous forest palaces of nature.

At a banquet given by the Boston Merchants' Association, at Boston, on Thursday evening of last week, at which ex-President Cleveland also spoke, Mr. Grady said, in the course of his brilliant oration on "The Race Problem:"

"We give to the world this year a crop of 7,500,000 bales of cotton, worth \$450,000,000, and its cash equivalent in grain, grasses and fruit. This enormous crop could not have come from

men and discontented labor in the fruitful fields, in which laughter and song rise above the hum of industry, and contentment runs with the singing plow. It is claimed that this ignorant labor is defrauded of its just hire. I present the tax books of Georgia, which show that the Negro, twenty five years ago a slave, has in Georgia alone \$10,000,000 of assessed property worth twice that much. Does not that record honor him, and vindicate his neighbors? What people penniless, illiterate, has done so well? For every Afro-American agitator, stirring the strife in which alone he prospers, I can show you a thousand Negroes happy in their ab-

Mr. Grady says further:

"Now, Mr. President, can it be seriously maintained that we are terrorizing the people from whose willing hands comes every year \$1,000,000,000 of farm crops? Or have robbed a people, who in twenty-five years from unrewarded slavery have amassed in one State \$20,000,000 of property? Or that we intend to oppress the people that we are arming every day? Or deceive them, when we are educating them to the utmost limit of our ability? Or outlaw them when we work side by side with them?"

Verily, verily, the "Afro-American Agitator" is a misfit creature, according to this showing; but 200 of him met in Atlanta on the 12th of November and pronounced against the position of Mr. Grady, and in any court on earth the testimony of 200 men will be accepted as against that of one man.

But all the extraordinary eulogium of Afro-Americans indulged in by Mr. Grady, all the more strange considering the source of it, vanishes into mist and dissolves into cloud vapor before the following climax in Mr. Grady's speech:

"You may pass force bills, but they will not avail. You may surrender your own liberties to federal election law, you may submit, in fear of a necessity that does not exist, that the very form of this Government may be changed—this old State which holds in its charter the boast that it 'is a free and independent commonwealth' may deliver its election machinery into the hands of the government it helped to create—but never, sir, will a single State of this Union, North or South, be delivered again to the control of an ignorant and inferior race. If the Negro had not been enfranchised, the South would have been divided and the Republic united. His enfranchisement—against which I enter no protest—holds the South united and compact."

Here, then, after all the oratorical taffy leading up to it, we have the plain, unvarnished truth, spoken with brutal force and bluntness.

Here, then, is the reason for his coming and the argument of his staying of the "Afro-American Agitator." It is not a question of "ignorant and inferior race" control and domination. No one expects that; no one desires it; no one is contending for it. But the "Afro-American Agitator" expects that his rights under the Constitution as amended shall be conceded to him, not grudgingly and in part but freely and in whole; he expects, not that he shall have delivered to him and that he shall control any State in the Union, but that he shall have a fair and equal share in the administration of the State, not as an Afro-American, but as a co-equal citizen under the Constitution; he expects that the "united and compact South," of which he is an indivisible part, shall become as disunited and uncompact in its political opinion and conduct as the electorate of Massachusetts, for instance; and he hurls back in Mr. Grady's teeth as a vile slander the charge that he is an "inferior race."

I give Mr. Grady credit for the pleasant and truthful and even eulogistic things he says of the Afro-American, his

"We give to the world this year a crop of 7,500,000 bales of cotton, worth \$450,000,000, and its cash equivalent in grain, grasses and fruit. This enormous crop could not have come from the ignorant and discontented laborer in the fertile fields, in which laughter and song rise above the hum of industry, and contentment runs with the singing plow. It is claimed that this ignorant labor is defrauded of its just hire. I present the tax books of Georgia, which show that the Negro, twenty five years ago a slave, has in Georgia alone \$10,000,000 of assessed property worth twice that much. Does not that record honor him, and vindicate his neighbors? What people penniless, illiterate, has done so well? For every Afro-American agitator, stirring the strife in which alone he prospers, I can show you a thousand Negroes, happy in their cabin homes, tilling their own land by day, and at night taking from the lips of their children the helpful message their State sends them from the schoolhouse door. And the schoolhouse itself bears testimony. In Georgia, we added last year \$250,000 to the school fund, making a total of more than \$1,000,000—and this in the face of prejudice not yet conquered, of the fact that the whites are assessed for \$368,000,000, the blacks for \$10,000,000, and yet 49 per cent. of the beneficiaries are black children—and in the doubt of many wise men if education helps, or can help our problem."

It is a charming picture that Mr. Grady presents. It allures and beguiles me. But in the same breath that he anathematizes the "Afro-American Agitator" he gives one potent reason for his existence, in the claim that while the Afro-American is the source from which \$450,000,000 of wealth is added to the State he is still a pensioner on the whites and is practically educated out of their bounty! The claim is preposterous and ludicrous on its face. Instead of being a credit to the Georgians that the Afro-American has managed to acquire property to the value of \$20,000,000 since the war, while producing annually \$450,000,000 of solid wealth, it is highly discreditable, and really destroys the beautiful picture Mr. Grady has drawn of contented laborers, happy in their lot, adequately compensated for their toil, and protected in all their rights by the strong arm of the law impartially, blindly administered.

Two hundred Afro-Americans recently gathered in Mr. Grady's own city of Atlanta. They represented every county in the State. They were men of character, intelligence, force and property. What called them together? To denounce the wage system of Georgia. To denounce the reign of mob and lynch law violence. To denounce the insolence and cowardice of individual white men in their conduct towards black men. To denounce the suppression of the ballot in Georgia. To denounce the existence of taxation without representation. To denounce the one-sided administration of justice in which Afro-Americans are made the victims. To denounce the universal denial of civil rights of Afro-Americans in Georgia.

In short, the 200 "Afro-American Agitators" who met in Atlanta on the 12th of November last answered in advance the speech delivered by Mr. Grady in Boston on the 12th of December.

State, n
co-equa
he expe
South,"
shall be
in its po
electora
and he
as a vil
"inferio
I give
ant and
things h
progres
thrift an
said on
it to the
himself
momen
Americ
enough
as he st
solute j
The i
"The
come t
Leagne

Jo
To the Ed
The
issue of
The Cl
John P.
ture is o
extended
only by
especiall
"Crawfo
party go
nees, Mr
other of
only one
the voter
that a su
the Clev

The
far as i
it is a li
Americ
"Joe M
Green
ran ove
brother
on the s
ahead o
dence o
brethre
part of
Cleve

How S

How
rather
to find
ally kn
long af
gress,
when s
an ann
him, th
out: "
fly in
will go
the ne
that ti
iar one

Acc
Tribun
Cathol

Mr. Grady says further:

"Now, Mr. President, can it be seriously maintained that we are terrorizing the people from whose willing hands comes every year \$1,000,000,000 of farm crops? Or have robbed a people, who in twenty-five years from unrewarded slavery have amassed in one State \$20,000,000 of property? Or that we intend to oppress the people that we are arming every day? Or deceive them, when we are educating them to the utmost limit of our ability? Or outlaw them when we work side by side with them?"

Verily, verily, the "Afro-American Agitator" is a misfit creature, according to this showing; but 200 of him met in Atlanta on the 12th of November and pronounced against the position of Mr. Grady, and in any court on earth the testimony of 200 men will be accepted as against that of one man.

But all the extraordinary eulogium of Afro-Americans indulged in by Mr. Grady, all the more strange considering the source of it, vanishes into mist and dissolves into cloud vapor before the following climax in Mr. Grady's speech:

"You may pass force bills, but they will not avail. You may surrender your own liberties to federal election law, you may submit, in fear of a necessity that does not exist, that the very form of this Government may be changed—this old State which holds in its charter the boast that it 'is a free and independent commonwealth' may deliver its election machinery into the hands of the government it helped to create—but never, sir, will a single State of this Union, North or South, be delivered again to the control of an ignorant and inferior race. If the Negro had not been enfranchised, the South would have been divided and the Republic united. His enfranchisement—against which I enter no protest—holds the South united and compact."

Here, then, after all the oratorical taffy leading up to it, we have the plain, unvarnished truth, spoken with brutal force and bluntness.

Here, then, is the reason for his coming and the argument of his staying of the "Afro-American Agitator." It is not a question of "ignorant and inferior race" control and domination. No one expects that; no one desires it; no one is contending for it. But the "Afro-American Agitator" expects that his rights under the Constitution as amended shall be conceded to him, not grudgingly and in part but freely and in whole; he expects, not that he shall have delivered to him and that he shall control any State in the Union, but that he shall have a fair and equal share in the administration of the State, not as an Afro-American, but as a co-equal citizen under the Constitution; he expects that the "united and compact South," of which he is an indivisible part, shall become as disunited and uncompact in its political opinion and conduct as the electorate of Massachusetts, for instance; and he hurls back in Mr. Grady's teeth as a vile slander the charge that he is an "inferior race."

I give Mr. Grady credit for the pleas-

THA

Rev. P.

To the Ed

In y

Heard

the edi

article

Rev. I

hold w

at issue

saying,

the dis

accept

swer.

champi

the iss

that the

tim et l

pline.

ing to r

tion the

Church

ground

Ever

ence m

laws ar

for the

pline, i

the pla

does a

therefo

new bo

ference

upon th

Churcl

necessa

writer,

gospel

are a c

dertake

truth v

spoke

bill be

dividin

stead o

former

latter t

minus

there v

said ch

read a

during

flock, l

1580

F

The

mental

"Th

pleasur

ing ext

of the

* * "T

fantry,

men, a

excelle

obedien

courts-

Regim

recogn

such a

excelle

in deta

tled to

each tr

By o

co-equal citizen under the Constitution, he expects that the "united and compact South," of which he is an indivisible part, shall become as disunited and uncompact in its political opinion and conduct as the electorate of Massachusetts, for instance; and he hurls back in Mr. Grady's teeth as a vile slander the charge that he is an "inferior race."

I give Mr. Grady credit for the pleasant and truthful and even eulogistic things he says of the Afro-American, his progress in wealth and in education, in thrift and economy; but after all he has said on this head, I maintain, and I leave it to the Nation to decide if Mr. Grady himself has not stated causes of sufficient moment to justify the birth of the "Afro-American Agitator," whom, properly enough, he has been the first to recognize as he steps forth to the contention for absolute justice under the Constitution.

The issues are squarely joined.

"The Afro-American Agitator" has come to stay, and the Afro-American League is the fortress of his strength.

T. THOMAS FORTUNE.

John P. Green's Election.

To the Editor of THE NEW YORK AGE:

The following clipping I find in your issue of Dec. 14:

The Cincinnati Commercial Gazette says that