

the thing reaches this pass we may perhaps see some POMPEY M. TWEED controlling the politics of Tammany Hall.

In all seriousness, we desire to witness nothing of this sort. We fervently hope that our recently enfranchised colored population will never become politicians, nor the dupes of politicians, and especially not in the Southern States. It is not their true mission, nor the mode whereby they are to work out their destiny and elevate their race. Small farms, with comfortable dwellings thereon; mechanics' shops, with industrious workmen therein; school-houses, filled with dusky pupils; churches, crowded with devout worshippers; habits of thrift, economy, temperance, cleanliness; the ability to make good bargains, and the honesty to stick to them; a thorough contempt for caucuses and demagogues; a well-grounded conviction that office-seeking is the poorest and most unsatisfactory kind of business men can follow, except possibly office-holding; and a settled belief that cross-road politics of the Southern type are unfit to be dabbled in by an emancipated slave—these are what the negroes want.

Let nobody be alarmed about the colored race not being able to protect themselves unless they turn politicians. The danger lies in an excess of politics. Any American citizen, though black as EREBUS, will be likely to indulge quite as much in small, low, bitter politics as is good for him. The enfranchised classes of the South need to be elevated and educated up to the full measure of manhood, and not trained in the demoralizing school of a superficial demagogueism. We commend these views to the serious consideration of such worthy and thoughtful colored gentlemen as Messrs. DOUGLASS, RAY, GARNETT, and DOWNING.

THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT.

The ratification of the Fifteenth amendment is secured. Consummated while the remembrance of the long series of colossal events of the last eight years is fresh in the public mind, we hardly realize its importance to our colored population, or accurately measure the marvellous advance which it marks in the progress of the nation.

Eight years ago, ten States of the Union formed a Confederacy for the extension and perpetuation of slavery. After a war which has no parallel in modern times, the Thirteenth amendment struck the shackles from four millions of bondmen and made freedom the destiny, through all the ages, of the myriads who are to inhabit this Republic. Following close upon this came the Fourteenth amendment, which secures equal civil rights to these myriads. The Fifteenth amendment crowns the work by conferring the ballot upon all citizens, irrespective of color, clime, creed, or condition; and in the Senate of the United States a negro now occupies the chair which JEFFERSON DAVIS abandoned that he might preside over a rival government whose corner-stone was human slavery. History will be searched in vain for a transition so sudden, a stride so grand toward perfection in civil institutions as this. Posterity will read the annals of the brief period within which these events transpired with wondering eyes.

This Amendment bestows the suffrage upon about 850,000 men, nine-tenths of whom dwell in the old slaveholding States. The number of colored voters in the Northern States, though large enough in Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, to exert an appreciable influence upon closely contested elections, will nevertheless be submerged under the vast preponderance of the whites. But the 750,000 negro electors in the late slaveholding States, will be an element of power sufficient oftentimes, if all thrown in one direction, to determine the choice of a President and fix the majority of the House of Representatives.

Of course this fact will, after the old white class gets well over its hereditary prejudices, cause the American citizen of African descent, to be much courted and persistently sought after by scheming politicians below the Potomac and the Ohio. Amid the trying exigencies of a hot Presidential contest, he will be wheedled by flattery, tempted with whiskey, and, unless he behaves a good deal better than some of his white neighbors, may turn out to be not impervious to bribes. Nay, he may by long training in the caucus and at the hustings, be so reduced as to get into Congress from South Carolina, and go to selling cadetships at West Point. Indeed, when