

these ends? Near eight years of bourbon rule in this State shows that the Democratic party is inimical in many respects to the general improvement of the 126,000 of colored population in the State, and for this reason, while we are grateful for the facilities that have been furnished to us, yet bourbon Democracy should be overthrown. Again, as far as State matters are concerned, the Republican party of Florida has been made powerless to influence the administration of State affairs, so as to secure to this large class of people that full protection in the exercise of certain civil and political rights, and the equal and impartial participation in the public responsibilities to which they are entitled as a part of the body politic, and that by means well known to us all. Hence, it is plain that since we need not expect anything of bourbon Democracy, and since the Republican party is powerless to better our condition, under the present state of affairs, we must take a different course. The local and general welfare of well-nigh half the population of this State requires that we adopt some wise policy on State matters, differing from that which we have pursued heretofore.

The indorsement of the Independent movement in State politics, presents itself to us as *that policy* which will secure to us the desired ends, and we as men and voters should unite with this movement and give it a faithful trial, if the circumstances existing at the proper time warrant it.

We submit the foregoing facts and premises to the calm and impartial consideration of those whom we represent in this Conference, and to the people at large of the State of Florida.