DECLARATION OF SENTIMENT

AND

RESOLUTIONS.

Recognizing the hand of the Almighty Ruler of the Universe, in the course which events have taken in the last few years; acknowledging that it was His power which overthrew that accursed system under which we so long groaned, which crushed out every high aspiration, debased us to a level with the beasts of the field, robbed us of every attribute of humanity, and prostituted our wives, our sisters and our daughters, and not being unmindful of the stupendous change, which makes us this day Freedmen and Citizens, we are grateful for all the blessings which have been showered down upon us, and with hearts overflowing with joy, hail the day of our Emancipation, as the brightest in the calendar of the nineteenth century.

We hold these truths to be incontrovertible; God hath made of one blood all the people of the earth, and implanted in their bosoms the desire for elevation and a higher order of existence.

We are not unmindful of the fact, that we have just been released from bondage; that we are just stepping out of the dark, into the full beauty of God's bright day; that Freedom does not mean idleness, nor exemption from labor; that with all its blessings, it confers upon us new