

ows made so by their husbands and fathers having fallen victims to the evils of intemperance.

Honorable members, you see the great hindrance ; now let the strength of your combined souls go forth to move it.

DAVID ABNER, JR., Chairman.
L. M. SUBLETT,
J. M. HOLLAND,
C. L. MADISON.

REPORT C.

GRIEVANCES.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen :

We, your Committee on Grievances, beg leave to make the following report :

We find that the denial to the colored people of the free exercise of many of the rights of citizenship, is due to the fact of there being such great prejudice against them as a race. This prejudice was engendered from the belief which underlay the institution of slavery, and which kept that institution alive, and built it to the enormous proportions which it has attained ; that is, the belief that the Negro was intended by the Divine Creator as servants and menials for the more favored races ; hence, was not to be accorded the rights and privileges exercised by other races. Very naturally, then, was it thought fitting and proper, and in keeping with Divine intention, to keep the Negro bowed down in slavery. The sudden change from a status wherein we were slaves to one in which we were made freemen ; and then, further, to that in which we became citizens equal before the law, was so unexpected and contrary, both to the training and teaching of our former owners, that they have never fully accepted said changes, though they have affected to accept them, because their acceptance was made the only condition upon which they could regain their former position in the Union. We submit, that it is contrary to the natural order of things for them to have surrendered their belief in the matter simply because they were physically overpowered. And, not only is the belief in the Negro's inferiority and creation for servants, deeply rooted in the minds of its advocates, but it has culminated in what seems to be a bitter hatred and fixed prejudice. This culmination was brought about by the Negro being taken from the position of a slave and forcibly placed equal to his former master ; also, by his being subsequently utilized in carrying on the war against the unfortunates of the lost cause after the battle had been transferred from the field to the ballot box ; and in doing this he adhered to a political party which he kept up by his support, and which was nearly identical with the triumphant party which had caused their former owners' defeat on the bloody field of battle. This is the outcome of a train of circumstances naturally liable to produce just