

In 1868 the 15th Amendment was adopted which ^{forbids} ~~prevents~~ any discrimination in Suffrage on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude. For 50 years the wives, mothers, daughters and sisters of the white men of the South have been the political inferiors of our negroes and former slaves. Posterity will read with amazement that there were Southern men in Congress who 50 years later voted to extend Prohibition to all the States, but refused to vote to permit the States to adopt an Amendment, giving women as much share in government as the negroes, as if States' Rights meant denial of rights to women only.

The Constitutional Provisions adopted by the several Southern States to guard against the effect of turning loose an ignorant mass of voters upon us did not attempt to nullify the 15th Amendment. Every voter, and every office holder, has taken an oath to support the Constitution of the United States as the Supreme law of the land. These State Amendments do not disfranchise the negro but prescribe ^{merely} a disqualification for illiteracy, and in some States there is a further requirement of a property qualification, neither of which are in violation of the 15th Amendment. The adoption of the Suffrage Amendment for women will not permit as large a proportion of the negro women to vote as of the men, for

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the illiteracy and lack of property is more general among the negro women than among the negro men. In fact in most of the Southern States the white women admitted to the vote will be more numerous than ~~the~~ all the negro men and negro women combined. ^{- Miss and S.E. -} And in the only two States where the negroes are in the majority (if they are still so, since the emigration northward) the proportion of negro men voting is not alarming and there will be still fewer negro women having the literacy and property qualifications.

With the President and Cabinet, and the House, led by Speaker Clark, endorsing justice for even a few Southern Senators can not take the responsibility of sending the Party to inevitable defeat by re-judicating what has been done.
Raleigh N.C. Walter Clark