

Collection: The Liberator
Publication: THE LIBERATOR
Date: January 27, 1865
Title: LETTER FROM J.M. McKIM.
Location: Boston

PENN'A FREEDMEN"S RELIEF ASSOCIATION,

424, WALNUT ST. PHILA., Jan, 17, 1865.

Mr. DEAR FRIEND— I have read with much interest your article on "Equal Political Rights." It confirms what I have all along said—that there is no radical difference of opinion among radical anti slavery men of our school on the subject of negro suffrage, You say, and you say well: "Nor has there been, nor is there now, among the abolitionists of this country, any conflict or division as to the wrongfulness of complexional proscription, whether at the ballot-box or elsewhere."

I could have wished, that while stating this proposition you had considered it more in regard to events in the future than with reference to incidents past; that you had discussed it not so much deferentially, as against inside critics, as aggressively against outside opponents, In that case I think it would have been manifest, that on all essential with all, and not in opposition to any, of the sincere friends of negro equality, For there is not, and in the nature of things cannot be, any essential point connected with this subject.

As abolitionist, we are friends and *advocates* of negro suffrage,. We are opposed to the word *white* — socially, ecclesiastically and politically—as a vulgar impertinence and tyrannous ostracism, fit only to be dispirited and accounted. We are opposed to the odious despised not only in the abstract, but in the concrete; in the present and for the future; in heart and in soul; in word and in deed; as toward the old States and toward the new; toward Louisiana and toward all other Southern States to be admitted; toward the Legislature of Pennsylvania and that of Illinois; toward Gov. Hahn and toward Gen. Banks; toward the President of the United States and toward Congress; toward all public bodies and all men in power;—
whenever and wherever the question may come up; or may be judiciously brought up.

It regard to Louisiana we demand—of all of whom the demand may be rightfully made—that whatsoever shall be the measure of political rights, the color of the skin shall not be.

We do not demand this in this case of a sine *qua non*, but we nevertheless demand it, We do not say— The ballot of the negro, or the bullet of the rebel," but we do say,

and mean to say, in term not to be mistaken "The rights to move for the negro on the same terms it is given to the white man."

This is the doctrine and attitude of abolitionists, is it not! I cannot be mistaken, and I am sure that you will say, "Yes."

I am ever yours,

J.M. McKIM.