

Advice to Colored Men by Calvin Taylor



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 14 June 1882, p.4:

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Editor Herald:

I wish to speak to the colored people of Ohio county, and as many throughout the entire State as may read your paper. I desire to say to them that, as the Constitution of the United States declares us to be free men with all the rights of citizenship and suffrage, it is necessary that we should exercise these rights as intelligently as possible, so as to be of the greatest benefit to ourselves and the good people of the country. I have come to the conclusion from observation that the only way for us to become able to discharge all our duties as citizens is to inform ourselves thoroughly of the affairs of the day and of the men and measures, which are being constantly brought before the people for consideration and action. Our object should be information, and the question arises as to how we shall acquire it? My answer is by reading everything pertaining to subjects of general interest and especially the newspapers. The newspaper tells us all about the issues of the day, because it is the editor's business to keep himself and his readers posted in everything. When a man comes to the front and asks the support of the people for any office, the newspaper tells us what kind of a man he is; if he is not worthy of office and honor they tell us so and if he is a man of true principles they inform us and thus enable us to be own dictators in regard to casting our votes for him.

The time is now at hand when we should work with all power to till our offices with good men, regardless of anything else. We, as colored men and as citizens of the State of Kentucky, should adopt some rule of action that will lead us to support men who we believe will work to protect us and the whole people in the fullest enjoyment of all the great blessings of freedom, men who will work so as to guarantee to every citizen, rich or poor, white or colored, native or foreign born, the greatest personal liberty consistent with good order and the well-being of society. We should at all times be for men who we believe will work to let all men, white or colored, have freedom not only to think, but to speak, write, to print and to vote, freedom to worship God in any manner or not at all according to the dictates of our respective consciences, freedom to buy and to sell, to come and to go at pleasure throughout the land.

CALVIN TAYLOR, Colored.



The identity of the author, Calvin Taylor, was not discovered.