

White and Black

The President Outlines His Position on the Race Question.

Washington, Nov. 27.—The president has sent the following communication to a well known man of Charleston, S. C.:

"Personal. White House, Washington, November 26, 1902.

"My Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your letter of November 10, and of one from Mr. —, under date of November 11, in reference to the appointment of Dr. Crum as collector of the port of Charleston.

"In your letter you make certain specific charges against Dr. Crum, tending to show his unfitness in several respects for the office sought. These charges are entitled to the utmost consideration from me, and I shall go over them carefully before taking any action. After making these charges you add, as further reason for opposition to him, that he is a colored man, and after reciting the misdeeds that followed carpet-bag rule and negro domination in South Carolina, you say that, 'We have sworn never again to submit to the rule of the African, and such an appointment as that of Dr. Crum to any such office forces us to protest unanimously against this insult to the white blood;' and you add that you understood me to say that I would never force a negro on such a community as yours. Mr. — puts the objection of color first, saying that, first, he is a colored man, and that of itself ought to bar him from office. In view of these last statements I think I ought to make clear to you why I am concerned and pained by your making them, and what my attitude is as regards all such appointments. How anyone could have gained the idea that I had said I would not

appoint reputable and upright colored men to office when objection was made to them solely on account of their color, I confess I am unable to understand. At the time of my visit to Charleston last spring I had made, and since that time I have made a number of such appointments from several states in which there is a considerable colored population. For example, I made one such appointment in Mississippi and another in Alabama shortly before my visit to Charleston. I had at that time appointed two colored men as judicial magistrates in the District of Columbia. I have recently announced another such appointment for New Orleans and have just made one from Pennsylvania.

"The great majority of my appointments in every state have been of white men. North and south alike it has been my sedulous endeavor to appoint only men of high character and good capacity, whether white or black. But it is and should be my consistent policy in every state where their numbers warranted it to recognize colored men of good repute and standing in making appointments to office. These appointments of colored men have in no state made more than a small proportion of the total number of appointments. I am unable to see how I can legitimately be asked to make an exception for South Carolina. In South Carolina to the four most important positions in the state I have appointed three men and continued in office a fourth, all of them white men—three of them originally gold democrats—two of them, as I am informed, the sons of confederate soldiers. I have been informed by the citizens of Charleston whom I have met that these four men represent a high grade of public service.

"I do not intend to appoint any unfit man to office. So far as I legitimately can I shall always endeavor to pay regard to the wishes and feelings of the people of each locality, but I cannot consent to take the position that the door of hope—the door of opportunity—is to be shut upon any man, no matter how worthy, purely upon the grounds of race or color. Such an attitude would, according to my convictions, be fundamentally wrong. If, as you hold, the great bulk of the colored people are not yet fit in point of character and influence to hold such positions, it seems to me that it is worth while putting a premium upon the effort among them to achieve the character and standing which will fit them.

"The question of 'negro domination' does not enter into the matter at all. It might as well be asserted that when I was governor of New York I sought to bring about negro domination in that state because I appointed two colored men of good character and standing to responsible positions—one of them to a position paying a salary twice as large as that paid in the office now under consideration; one of them as a director of the Buffalo exposition. The question raised by you and Mr. — in the statements to which I refer is simply whether it is to be declared that under no circumstances shall any man of color, no matter how upright and honest, no matter how good a citizen, no matter how fair in his dealings with all his fellows, be permitted to hold any office under our government, I certainly cannot assume such an attitude, and you must permit me to say that in my view it is an attitude no man should assume, whether he looks at it from the standpoint of the true interest of the white man of the south

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or of the colored man of the south—not to speak of any other section of the union. It seems to me that it is a good thing from every standpoint to let the colored man know that if he shows in a marked degree the qualities of good citizenship—the qualities which in a white man we feel are entitled to reward—then he will not be cut off from all hope of similar reward.

"Without any regard as to what my decision may be on the merits of this particular applicant for this particular place, I feel that I ought to let you know clearly my attitude on the far broader question raised by you and Mr. —, an attitude from which I have not varied during my term of office. Faithfully yours, **"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."**

A New Scheme.

Exchanges all agree that the Venezuelan affair suggests a new way to

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Too True.

If Clara Morris had worked humanity for all there was in it for herself, instead of working herself for all there was for humanity she might have won gratitude and riches, instead of having her home sold on a mortgage.—Kansas City World.