a great extent, and make the soul give up, we have nevertheless
been enabled to live above them.

We have been deprived of the elective franchise during the last
twenty years. In a free country, this is ever a stimulant to enter-
prise, a means of influence, and a source of respect. The possession
of it sends life, vigor, and energy through the entire heart of a people.
The want of it in a community, is the cause of carelessness, intel-
lectual inerterness, and indolence. Springing above all these depress-
ing circumstances, and exerting ourselves with unwonted alacrity, by
native industry, by the accumulation of property, we have helped
contribute, to a considerable extent, not only to the means of the
State, but likewise to its character and respectability.

We claim, that there is no consideration whatever in existence, on
account of which, the odious proscription of which we complain,
should be continued. The want of intelligence, our misfortune, and
the crime of others, which was once urged against us, does not now exist.
Again: we are the descendants of some of the earliest settlers of the
State. We can trace our ancestry back to those who first pierced
the almost impenetrable forests that then lifted their high and stately
heads in silent grandeur to the skies. When the vast and trackless
wilderness, that had alone answered to the fierce roar of the roam-
ing beast, or the whoop of the wild nature, spread itself before the
earlier settlers, our fathers were among those, who, with sinewy
frame and muscular arm, went forth to humble that wilderness in its
native pride. Since that time, our fathers, and we ourselves, have
lent our best strength in cultivating the soil, in developing its vast
resources, and contributing to its wealth and importance. Those
who are the least acquainted with the history of the State, cannot but
grant, that in this respect we have contributed more than our propor-
tionate part.

In times when patient toil and hardy industry were demanded, it
will thus be seen, we have ever been present and active. Not only
so. In times of peril has our aid been called for, and our services
as promptly given. When the country, its interests, its best and
most cherished rights and institutions, have been assailed, not una-
vailingly have we been looked to. When the shrill trumpet-call of
Freedom was heard amid the mountains and the rocks, and along the
rivers of the North, and a reverberating reply was heard from the
broad fields and pine forests of the South; when the whole country,
aroused by the injustice of British policy, arose as one man, for the
maintenance of natural and unprescriptible rights; the dark-browed
man stood side by side with his fairer fellow citizen, with firm deter-
mination and indomitable spirit. During that memorable conflict, in
severe and trying service, did they contend for those principles of
liberty set forth in the Declaration of Independence, which are not
of partial or local applicability, but which pertain alike to every
being possessed of those high and exalted endowments that distin-
guish humanity.