this position. We ask history, has any other nation on earth, under the
light of Christianity, (but America), disfranchised its most loyal and patri-
otic citizens; preferring to grant [the] franchise to those that have desired
and aimed to destroy the Government? We ask our Government to be as Republi-
can as England, though pronounced a tyrannical monarchy. She gives her black
and her white citizens alike privileges in political franchise; while in Re-
publican America, white citizens only have the universal privilege of suf-
frage. We ask for our right to "Equality before the Law" upon the principle,
that, it does not degrade the white man to fight along side of the Negro on
the battle-field to save the country, or save the lives of white American
citizens, it will not degrade white men, to vote side by side with Negroes,
to preserve a Republican form of Government, and preserve the country from
another war, which it does not require inspiration to predict, if the claims
of justice are not meted out in Government affairs. We claim our rights of
suffrage upon the ground that the opponents of our right to "Equality before
the Law," have never adduced a single sound argument to prove what they raise
as an objection to our right of suffrage; that is, that it will degrade the
white man, deteriorate the Saxon race, amalgamate the two races, and take the
country out of white men's hands. We can prove by calling the history of the
country to our support that the spirit that opposes the black man's right to
"Equality before the Law," has been baptized by the very institution of the
country, (slavery), that has been fostering for two and a half centuries, the
very evils of which our enemies pretend to fear.

The thirteen original States, at one period of their history, (all but
South Carolina), allowed their colored citizens to vote; and history does not
place a single fact upon record, showing that granting the Negroes the right
of suffrage in any of those States engendered amalgamation of the black and
white races, or that it caused a deterioration of the Saxon race, nor was the
Government ever threatened with black sovereignty. No! this was not the fear
of political power in the black man's hand; it was slavery looking out for its
own interest, feared the free Negro in political power; because he was of the
enslaved race, and in stronger sympathy with the slave; it took its stand-
point in South Carolina, and swept from the Negro's hand the ballot box in
every State it could influence politically; and it is the spirit of slavery
that now opposes Negro suffrage throughout the land.

We hurl back with scorn and contempt the frequent intimation of scurril-
ous newspapers that granting us "Equality before the Law," would induce us to
thrust ourselves into the society of the whites. Notwithstanding they,
through their beloved institution of slavery, have thrust their race upon us,
--want it to be particularly understood, we never have had and are not
likely to have, any particular fondness for the Saxon race above our own.
Whatever isolated cases of amalgamation of the two races have occurred in any
part of the country, on marriage principles, on the part of the whites it has
been mostly the Irish, who pretend to be the most violent enemies of Negro
rights; and what is a remarkable truth, that where such conjugal unity takes
place, while the party of the Celtic race retains his caste or social stand-
ing, the party of the African race loses his caste or social standing
generally among his sable brethren, of the higher order of society. We appeal
to every true American whose voice shall resound in the proud capital over
which the glorious stars and stripes shall float, to give us our rights in the
name and spirit of the murdered and immortal Lincoln, who sealed our rights
with his hallowed blood, who said this people, (the colored), ought to have
"Equality before the Law."

Upon these logical principles we make our simple, unsophisticated and
earnest appeal to every friend of justice and humanity--every Republican, true
Union man and Christian, in the Legislature, in the State and in the country.
In vindication of our holy cause, we appeal to every true Union journal in the
State and on the Pacific coast, while we shall also supplicate with Christian
fervor, the Great Sovereign of all men, and of all nations of men, and the
absolute defender of human rights, and all great principles in his moral
government; to Him also will we appeal for an interposing hand in the defence
of our glorious cause, while there is a sable American son to plead for jus-
tice in his race. This is our land where we have had our birth, for it we
have fought and bled, here we will remain, as a race, until eternities
thunders shake us from this soil.