

Table of Contents

Publisher's Note	viii
Editor's Introduction.	ix
Contributors	xiii

DEBATING RECONSTRUCTION

"The Absolute Equality of All Men before the Law, the Only True Basis of Reconstruction"	2
Prospects of the Freedmen of Hilton Head	9
Thaddeus Stevens: Speech to Congress	20
Alexander Stephens: "On Reconstruction".	24
Report of the Joint Committee on Reconstruction	28
"The One Man Power vs. Congress".	34
Frederick Douglass: "Reconstruction"	40

COMMUNITIES IN NEED

Letter from Black Soldiers of North Carolina to the Freedmen's Bureau Commissioner	48
Address of a Convention of Negroes Held in Alexandria, VA	52
"The Education of the Freedmen".	56
Letters from Louisiana.	60
Letter from Roanoke Island	67
The Sad State of Indian Affairs	71

ACTS OF STATE

The Freedmen's Bureau Bill	78
Civil Rights Act of 1866	82
First Reconstruction Act.	88
Second Reconstruction Act	92
Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution.	97
Articles of Impeachment against President Andrew Johnson	104
President Grant's First Inaugural Address	117

BLACK CODES AND WHITE LIVES

Mississippi Black Code . . . . .	.123
Louisiana Black Code . . . . .	.132
Letter to T.P. Chandler . . . . .	.136
“A Long Silence”. . . . .	.140
From <i>Ten Years on a Georgia Plantation since the War</i> . . . . .	.144

EXTREME REACTIONS

Notice from the Ku Klux Klan to Davie Jeems. . . . .	.150
“The First-Class Men in Our Town”. . . . .	.153
Letter to Senator Joseph C. Abbott on the Ku Klux Klan . . . . .	.157
A Contested Election: Report to Congress on the Activities of the Ku Klux Klan . . . . .	.166
From <i>Recollections of the Inhabitants, Localities, Superstitions, and Ku Klux Outrages of the Carolinas, by a “Carpet-Bagger” Who Was Born and Lived There</i> . . . . .	.176

RECONSTRUCTION MOVES AHEAD

“The North Owes the Colored Race a Deep Obligation” . . . . .	.185
Letter to Republican Senators and Representatives . . . . .	.192
“A Plea for General Amnesty” . . . . .	.197
“Half Free, Half Slave”. . . . .	.208
Civil Rights Act of 1875 . . . . .	.214

AN AMBIGUOUS LEGACY

<i>United States v. Cruikshank</i> . . . . .	.219
Blanche Bruce: Speech in the Senate . . . . .	.229
Freedmen’s Monument Speech . . . . .	.233
Ulysses S. Grant: Letter to Daniel H. Chamberlain . . . . .	.242
Sharecropping Contract . . . . .	.248

APPENDIXES

Chronological List253
Web Resources255
Bibliography257
Index.264