

African American Civil War Museum



But the time shall yet come, when the name of the despised, neglected American patriot, in spite of American prejudice, shall rise superior to the spirit that would degrade it and take its place on the records of merit and fame.

- Martin R. Delany, *the North Star*, December 8, 1848

Our brethren in the South should not be called slaves, but prisoners of war.

William C. Nell, December 1852



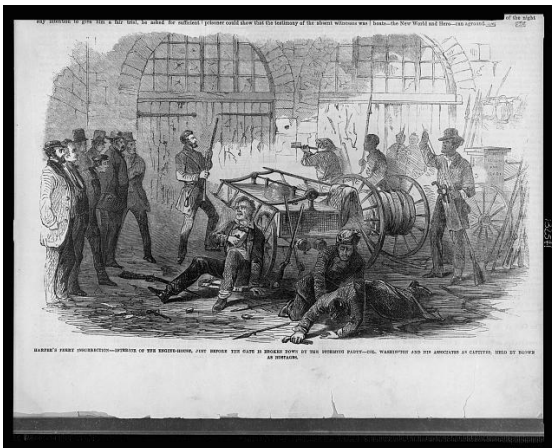
Sooner or later, the clashing of arms will be heard in this country, and the black man's services will be needed: 150,000 freemen capable of bearing arms, and not all cowards and fools, and three quarter of a million slaves, wild with the enthusiasm caused by the dawn of the glorious opportunity of being able to strike a genuine blow for freedom, will be a power which white men will be 'bound to respect.' Will the blacks fight? Of course, they will.

John S. Rock, March 5, 1858

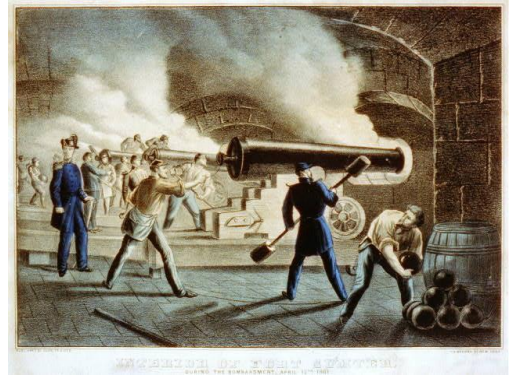


Captain Brown has initiated a new mode of carrying on the crusade of freedom, and his blow has sent dread and terror throughout the entire ranks of the piratical army of slavery. His daring deeds may cost him his life, but priceless as is the value of that life, the blow he has struck, will, in the end, prove worth its mighty cost.

Frederick Douglass, November 1859

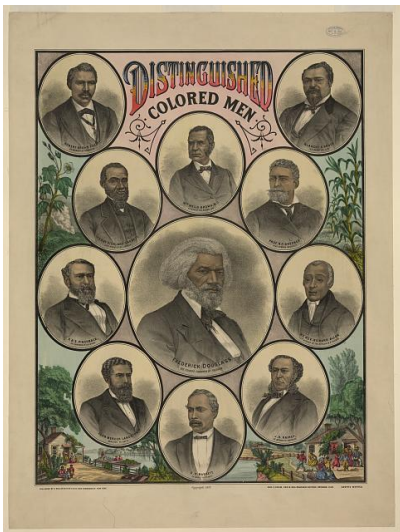
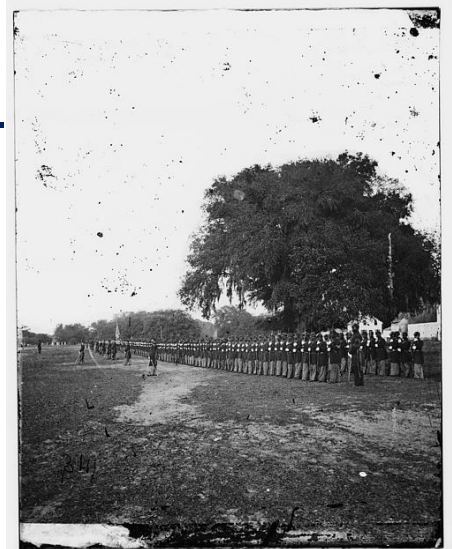


It is clearly a right of the Government to arm slaves when it may become necessary, as it is to take gunpowder from the Enemy; whether it is expedient to do so, is purely a Military question.
 Simon Cameron, Secretary of War, December 1861



It may be viewed as the last measure of an exhausted government, a cry for help, the government stretching forth its hands to Ethiopia, instead of Ethiopia stretching forth her hands to the Government.
 Secretary of State William Seward

By arming the Negro, we have added a powerful ally.
 General Ulysses S. Grant, August 1863



This, Mr. Chairman, is perhaps the Negro's, temporary farewell to the American Congress, But let me say, Phoenix- like he will rise again
 - Congressman George White