“A Man or a Monkey.”

This is a clipping from the *Negro Solicitor* and was found in a scrapbook of clippings kept by George Woodson of Buxton, Iowa. It was among a group of clippings dated by someone in the July to August period of 1898. It is the only known copy.

It is generally considered that whatever position the chairman of a campaign committee takes, the same is in accord with the designs of the candidates he manages and represents. If this be true in Mahaska County at the present, so far as the democratic county committee and candidates are concerned, it will be as hard for a Negro to vote consistently any part of the democratic county ticket in this county this fall as it used to be “for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle.”

Oh yes! says an awkward, ungainly, half-tamed, poorly civilized, three hundred pound, would-like-to-be-considered-democratic-leader, “its just as I told you. Taylor never was a democrat and now he’s got money from the other side and he’ ready to flop.”

Whatever may be said in this direction by white or black man, by democrat or republican, we care not, for during the forty years of our existence we have been “free” and “by the hosts of America,” we propose to exercise that freedom until the period of our existence is abridged. We tried for ten days to compromise with self and swallow the filth emitted from the muddy brain of the filthy “chairman,” but the remaining speck of manhood that mixes in our composition revolts.

We have personal friends upon the democratic county ticket who are worthy men, honorable gentlemen and we desire to support them and to vote for them, but let it be known now, that unless they come out boldly and publicly denounce the insults hurled at
the Negro of this county by their chairman, we shall be bound to defend our own and the manhood of the race by withholding our feeble support.

The timid declarations of this article are not thrown out as a “feeler,” nor for sympathy, but as the plain expressions of one who worships manhood and scorns a would-be pirate; one who thinks infinitely more of self and race than any or all political parties now existing.

We left the republican party in 1892 in search of freedom, and we do not now propose to submit to indignant slavery at the hands of the party of our adoption.

The insults referred to here are purely local we admit and like wise are our denunciations.

We shall with patience, hopefully await developments.

Whatever may come, our adherence to the principles of bimetallism cannot be pulled away from us.