

1831. The African Sentinel and Journal of Liberty

The African Sentinel and Journal of Liberty was edited in Albany, New York, by John E. Stewart in 1831. There are no surviving copies. This article appeared in *The Liberator*, March 12, 1831. Source: H. Aptheker (1973). *A Documentary History of the Negro People in the United States*. Secaucus, NJ: Citadel Press, v. 1, 109-111.

Proposals for publishing in the city of Albany, N.Y., A paper under the title of The African Sentinel And Journal Of Liberty

For the general advancement and improvement of the people of color.

Feeling deeply sensible of the great utility of such a work to the colored community, the subscriber, flattering himself of its success, has made every arrangement necessary for its publication, with a gentleman whose facilities in connection with his mechanical abilities, will render it a Journal of as respectable an appearance as any in the State. We are not indifferent, however, as to the responsibilities attending so arduous an undertaking, when we reflect that men of greater attainments, both in a literary and natural point of view, have preceded us in this heretofore unsuccessful undertaking as has been demonstrated by the recent failures of the "FREEDOM'S JOURNAL" and "RIGHTS OF ALL:" which, through the neglect, and not inability of the colored people of the United States, were suffered to go down from the proud eminence which they were attaining through the watchful zeal, talents and exertions of their Editor and Proprietor, MR. S.E. CORNISH. Notwithstanding such powerful considerations to cope with, we have resolved to enter the field, and "*stand the hazard of the die.*" And should we succeed, where others have failed, the praise will redound more to the credit, patriotism and liberality of OUR COUNTRYMEN, than to our limited exertions. Still we trust our efforts, feeble as they may be, will be duly appreciated by our friends, and meet with a cordial support from every man whose bosom flows with the least spark of love of liberty and equality, and who believes as we do, and as is set forth in the Declaration of American Independence, "that all men are created free and equal" and "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among which, are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." In order to promote that happiness, so desirable to all, it is necessary, and indispensably so, that there should be *at least* one public Journal, conducted by a colored man, and devoted to the interests of the colored population throughout this country, for the purpose of diffusing such information of passing events as may be calculated both to instruct and amuse, and for the general communicating of our thoughts and sentiments upon such subjects, as are frequently agitated in the world, touching our condition as a part of the great family of man: And, more particularly here, where the arts, sciences and literature, are as accessible to the humble peasants as to the more proud and opulent, - here, where the people of every clime, save Africa, are hastening to enjoy the benefits of those Institutions so congenial to the cultivation of every science and of every art.

Descendants of Africa! -Will you not arise with the dignity of MEN, and each proclaim "AM I NOT A MAN AND A BROTHER?" and with one accord establish and support a Paper, the aim of which shall be to destroy that hydra-headed canker-worm of prejudice, encourage education, Temperance and Morality, and urge the distribution of equal justice and equality? It is anxiously hoped that the colored community will give the subject that impartial consideration which the abject state of the mass of the colored population demands.

We trust, with our exertion, together with the promised aid of a few ready pens, to present our patrons with a Journal corresponding with the wishes of every friend to Equal Rights. And ere we conclude, we humbly solicit the patronage and support of those philanthropic and general citizens, who sympathize and wish for the amelioration of the condition of the long benighted sons and daughters of Africans, that a liberal public will enable THE AFRICAN SENTINEL to take a firm stand upon the ramparts of his NATION'S RIGHTS, and establish the fame of his JOURNAL OF LIBERTY.

THE AFRICAN SENTINEL and JOURNAL OF LIBERTY, will also be devoted to the dissemination of the news of the day, but more particularly to that relating to the colored population; both Foreign and Domestic, and will be published in a quarto form consisting of eight pages for the first four

months, at the rate of \$1.50 cents per year; and should patronage warrant, it will after that time, be continued semi-monthly at the rate of \$2.00 per year, until arrangements can be made for its publication weekly.