

THE NEGRO TRADER'S CANDIDATE!

Shall Beaumont's Pet Brother,

A. P. CURRY,

BE FOISTED ON THE COLORED MEN FOR SHERIFF?

Why do colored men hate S. B. Beaumont? Because he gives them no rights. Who arrests negro draymen and mechanics as vagrants, sends them in handcuffs, like State's prison convicts, to the country, and hires them out at ten dollars a head? Ask the *Bogus Radical*, S. B. Beaumont.

Who pockets the blood-money thus obtained? Ask S. B. Beaumont.

Who paid \$50 to hush the matter up from being inquired into by the Freedmen's Bureau? Ask S. B. Beaumont.

Who stopped colored men from coming to the polls to vote for Mayor? Ask Beaumont's Police.

Who pounded colored men on the heads at the city lines, and forced them to return on election day? Ask Beaumont's Police.

Who branded the backs of colored men on election day like so many cattle? Ask Beaumont's Police.

Who defeated McLean for Wharfinaster? Ask S. B. Beaumont.

Who accuses honest colored men of being thieves, and sends them in handcuffs to the station house, without any charges being made? Won't Sam Ireland say Beaumont?

Who was voted down in caucus by over seventy majority, and afterwards, contrary to colored men's wishes, imposed upon them as a delegate of the Seventh Ward? Ask S. B. Beaumont.

What more proof that Beaumont is no friend of colored Republicans?—The *Avalanche* is his friend.

Who claimed the right to dictate terms to delegates that he must control the appointment of Sheriff? Won't Garrett's friends say S. B. Beaumont?

Who claimed on the streets that he could and would elect A. P. Curry for Sheriff? Ask S. B. Beaumont.

Who procured the nomination of A. P. Curry by fraud and corruption? Ask S. B. Beaumont.

Who claims to be the personal friend of S. B. Beaumont? Ask A. P. Curry.

Who is Beaumont's right-hand bower and pet candidate? Ask A. P. Curry.

Who are the backers of A. P. Curry now? Ask Beaumont and friends.

What colored men will vote for A. P. Curry? None but friends of S. B. Beaumont.

What do colored men do who vote for A. P. Curry? Endorse the acts of Beaumont.

What can be done to repudiate Beaumont? Defeat his pet, A. P. Curry.

How can this best be done? By electing an anti-Beaumont Radical.

How can such a Radical be elected? By the vote of all opposed to Beaumont.

Who can be trusted by the colored men for such a candidate? The colored man's friend, H. McDONOUGH.

Can the colored men elect him as an independent candidate? They can by going in with a will.

Will colored men join in electing H. McDONOUGH? All who do not love Beaumont will.

Seeking African American Votes in the Aftermath of the Memphis Massacre

(African Americans – Reconstruction) [McDonough, H.] **The Negro Trader's Candidate! – Shall Beaumont's Pet Brother A. P. Curry, Be Foisted on the Colored Men For Sheriff? ...**

[N.p., n.d., Memphis, Tennessee, circa 1868] broadside, measuring 10 ¼ x 8 ¼ inches, formerly folded, light creasing, some light dust soiling and staining, pencilled figures on verso, else in very good condition. Apparently unrecorded, not listed in OCLC.

A campaign broadside in support of the candidacy of H. McDonough for Shelby County Sheriff circa 1868. His opponent Alexander P. Curry, a protégé of Samuel B. Beaumont, then Chief of the Memphis Police Department, went on to win this election. Tennessee was the first southern state to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, in early April 1865. It also became the first former Confederate state to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment in 1866, and shortly thereafter it became the first former Confederate state to return to the Union. African-American men gained the right to vote in 1867, two full years before Congress passed the Fifteenth Amendment.

The election was held in the aftermath of one of the worst incidents of racial violence in the 19th century – the Memphis Massacre of 1866. The massacre occurred from May 1 through May 3, 1866, it left forty-six African Americans and two white killed, and another 285 victimized in some way, including more than seventy persons wounded (most of whom were black, and several black women raped. In addition, officials reported a hundred or more robberies of blacks, the burning of African-American churches, schools, and homes, and damage to private and government property.

Contemporaries and historians alike have attributed blame and have listed various immediate and long-term causes for the three-day riot.

The riot's root cause was a bitter long-standing antipathy between Memphis's blacks and lower-class whites. The Union army had taken the city early in the war, in 1862, and as a result many former slaves fled their owners from the surrounding countryside and settled in shanty-towns near Fort Pickering in South Memphis. The black population quadrupled during the war. This population influx had the effect of greatly aggravating racial animosity, because the newly arrived blacks began to compete with the lower-class whites for jobs.

The Memphis police – who were all white, and nearly all of whom were Irish immigrants, were notoriously unprofessional – especially detested the freed people and regularly abused them. The police were unchecked by local civil officials who were themselves mostly Irish and contemptuous of the freedmen.

There were three regiments of black troops stationed at Fort Pickering located on the banks of the Mississippi, the 59th and 61st Colored Infantry and the Third Heavy Artillery. These troops were mustered out just before the riot and were resented and reviled by the white pro-secessionist residents of Memphis.

The flames overheating this cauldron of resentment were fanned by the Memphis Press, especially the *Avalanche* and the *Daily Argus*, the articles of the *Avalanche*, (mentioned in the broadside) were particularly incendiary. The articles in these newspapers ranted against the African-American population, "radicals," northern or "imported people," and stirred up passions and prejudices of the lower classes against blacks and yankees. The editor of the *Avalanche*, Matthew Galloway, took part in the riot and actually led the mob at one point. In fact, the mayor, the attorney general, and a constable were active in leading mobs when the riot began.

The Memphis riot coincided with the beginning of a campaign on the part of the white elite to regain economic, social, and political control of their city which culminated in success in 1879. The white elite was able to exploit class divisions within the black community to prevent blacks from participating in politics while at the same time wresting political power away from the middle class – both Irish and native born – which controlled politics and government during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

The riot accomplished several of the goals sought after by the Memphis elite. First, it succeeded in frightening many blacks into flight or into signing Freedmen's Bureau contracts to work in the surrounding countryside, thus easing the social and economic pressure on Memphis.

Although the rioters were never prosecuted, the elite did succeed in blaming the Irish for the riot and disorder in the city. The riot was used as an argument for the reform and professionalization of the police force. Within a month the Metropolitan Police Bill went into effect. This bill established a board of Police Commissioners which would be controlled by the state legislature. The recruits for the force were to be citizens, have no criminal record, and be able to read and write; they were to be subjected to a period of training and required to wear a uniform rather than the simple star which had been used before.

Benjamin G. Garrett, the Memphis police chief at the time of the riot, was replaced and Samuel B. Beaumont was police chief at the time this broadside was printed.

The reforms instituted were clearly not working for African-Americans, hence the campaign of H. McDonough for sheriff and the present broadside. The riot and its aftermath discredited President Andrew Johnson's policies and demonstrated as one newspaper wrote: "...the demoniac spirit of the southern whites toward the freedmen..."

The text of the broadside touches on many aspects of life in the Reconstruction era South faced by African Americans, racial violence, voter intimidation and repression, arbitrary arrest, incarceration for profit, et cetera. Many of which are posed as questions by McDonough to African Americans:

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\$ 3,750.00

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