

1865, July 23

St. Helena Island, [South Carolina]

Delany, [Martin R.]

28925

4001

Memorandum of extracts from speech by Major  
Delaney, African, at the Brick Church, St. Helena  
Island. St. Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1865.

I came to talk to you in plain words so as you can  
understand how to throw open the gates of oppression  
and let the captive free - x x x; In this state there  
200,000, able, intelligent, honorable negroes, not  
an inferior race, mind you, who are ready to pro-  
tect their liberty. x x x, The matter is in your own  
hands, Yes I will fight them and take them  
man by man, x x x, I want to tell you one thing,  
do you know that if it was not for the Black man  
this war never would have been brought to a close  
with success to the Union, and the liberty of your  
race if it had not been for the negro? I want  
you to understand that - Do you know it, do  
you know it, do you know it, cries of yes, yes, yes,  
they can't get along without you x x x, Yankees  
from the North who come down here to drive you  
as much as ever it was before the war. Its  
Slavery over again, northern, universal U.S. Slavery

xxxx, But they must keep their stamps off xxxx,  
 If I were a slave I would be the most worthless one  
 on the plantation, I would not do anything, xxxx,  
 They (i.e. before the war) have often told you, Sam,  
 you lazy nigger, you don't earn your salt, If  
 you don't do better I'll sell you to the first trader that  
 comes along, at the same time they were making  
 their thousands annually on every one of you-xxxx,  
 And so it is with these Yankees from the North  
 they don't pay you enough, I see too many of  
 you dressed in rags, and shoeless-xxxx, these Yankees  
 talk smooth to you, o, yes, their ting will just like  
 a drum, (laughter) but it's slavery over again as  
 much as ever it was, xxxx, I expect Gen. Saxton,  
 back very soon, he is working with me, when  
 this matter will be settled, I mean about lands,  
 when you can plant and work your own farms.  
 Don't be anxious for large places 40 acres is enough  
 cotton will bring, so, for two years to come that is  
 putting it at a low estimate. (Here he explained  
 a mathematical calculation showing that they  
 could make \$900. per year on this staple) and  
 then your little cabins will be floored, barn built,  
 and carpet will take the place of bare floor xxxx

The last Saragatke is well, a w. p. (.) But you must only deal with the Govt. accredited agent. Recognize none but authorized cotton agents. - I know that Cotton has been raised by you, these fellows have told you they would send it north and sell it for you months pass, and when you ask for money they will tell you the Cotton is not yet sold. xxx, These are good yankees and when you come across a good yankee he is smart xxx, the figure is yellow trousers and claw hammer coat, dealing in wood en trams and nutmegs (and calculated to impress the negro with feelings of indignation towards the white people from the north now residing here - engaged in the products of this climate.) But what I don't like, and what won't have is these fellows from the north, who were nothing at home, and ape the southerner with a big broad brim hat. he has his overseer too, a chuckle headed slave driver on the fence or in the crotch of a tree, and say Sam or Jim do this, do that, light my pipe, as lazy as any southerner or overseer was. - They promise you, 30¢ task, you are to get 1/3 crop and I will see that you get it, xxx, You must not think you are yankees, you are

4001

suggested the same as above. xxxx, (He gave the  
 idea that the real Yankee is smart - but the  
 here were not conscientious) -

"There is something rotten in Denmark."

(Sgt) Alex White Jr  
 2nd Lt 128th U.S.C. Troops

a true copy  
 (Sgt) Edward M. Strober  
 1st Lieut 104th U.S.C.

HEADQUARTERS Dept. of South Carolina

Wmwa Road S.C. Aug 10 1865

Official

D. A. Gilmore  
 Major General Genl