

LETTER FROM THE NEGRO ROBERT SMALLS. Robert Smalls, the negro pilot who brought the rebel steamer Planter out of Charleston and delivered her to our naval forces, publishes the following letter in the *Washington Republican* —

MR. EDITOR, — In your paper of yesterday, it is stated that an application had been made by me to Senator Pomeroy for a passage to Central America. I wish it understood that I have made no such application; but, at the same time, I would express my cordial approval of every kind and wise effort for the liberation and elevation of my oppressed race.

After waiting, apparently in vain, for many years for our deliverance, a party consisting of nine men, myself included, of the city of Charleston, conferred freedom on ourselves, five women and three children; and to the Government of the United States we gave the Planter, a gunboat which cost nearly thirty thousand dollars, together with six large guns, from a 24-pounder howltzer to a 100-pound Parrott rifle.

We are all now in the service of the navy, under the command of our true friend, Rear Admiral Dupont, where we wish to serve till the rebellion and slavery are alike crushed out forever.