

Neglected Voices

Speeches of African-American Representatives Addressing the Civil Rights Bill of 1875

Representative Joseph H. Rainey, responding on February 4, 1875, to an argument that the Bill conferred "special protections" that men of quality, like Frederick Douglass, did not need:

Mr. RAINEY. I would like to ask the gentleman just one question before he sits down. Did the talent and good conduct of Fred. Douglass enable him to sit at the same table on the Potomac boat with his fellow-members of the San Domingo commission?