

## SOUTH CAROLINA FREEDPEOPLE DEMAND EDUCATION

*In November 1865, a convention of freedmen met in Charleston, South Carolina, to demand new rights for African Americans. Foremost among their demands was education for their children. The convention issued the following resolution:*

*Whereas, "Knowledge is power," and an educated and intelligent people can neither be held in, nor reduced to slavery; Therefore [be it] Resolved, That we will insist upon the establishment of good schools for the thorough education of our children throughout the State; that, to this end, we will contribute freely and liberally of our means, and will earnestly and persistently urge forward every measure calculated to elevate us to the rank of a wise, enlightened and Christian people. Resolved, That we solemnly urge the parents and guardians of the young and rising generation, by the sad recollection of our *forced* ignorance and degradation in the past, and by the bright and inspiring hopes of the future, to see that schools are at once established in every neighborhood; and when so established, to see to it that every child of proper age, is kept in regular attendance upon the same.<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> *Proceedings of the Colored People's Convention of the State of South Carolina, Held in Zion Church, Charleston, November 1865* (Charleston: South Carolina Leader Office, 1865), (accessed Sept. 18, 2014). [http://fax.libs.uga.edu/e185x93xg4xs7x1865/1f/State\\_Convention\\_of-the\\_Colored\\_People\\_of\\_South\\_Carolina\\_1865.pdf](http://fax.libs.uga.edu/e185x93xg4xs7x1865/1f/State_Convention_of-the_Colored_People_of_South_Carolina_1865.pdf).