



I do not perceive how I can more plainly express
myself than I have ^{done} in the foregoing extracts. In four of them I
have expressly disclaimed all intention to promote social
and political equality between the white and black; and in all
the rest I have said the same thing by clear implica-
tion.

I have made it equally plain that I believe the negro
is included in the word "men" used in the Declara-
tion of Independence.

I believe the declaration that "all men are created
equal" is the great fundamental principle upon
which our free institutions rest.

That negro slavery is a violation of that principle;
but that, by our form of government, that princi-
ple has not been made one of legal obligation.

That by our form of government, the States, which
have slavery, are to retain or draw it, at their
own pleasure; and therefore that all other - individ-
uals, free States, and national government, - are
constitutionally bound to leave them alone about it.

That our government was thus formed because of the
necessity springing from the actual presence of slavery,
when it was formed.

That such necessity does not exist in the United
States when slavery is not present.

In his Mendenhall speech Mr. Gay says: "Now,
as an abstract principle, there is no doubt of the
truth of that declaration" (that all men are created equal);
and it is derivable, in the original construction of so-
ciety, and in organized societies, to keep it in view, as