

## Assessing Primary Sources

**Grade Level:** Grade 6

**Standard(s) or Objectives:** CCSS.RI.6.1-Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

### Morris Special Collections Resources:

S. D. Down, late Democratic Senator from Louisiana, in an elaborate and carefully prepared speech, published in the Washington Globe, says:

"I call upon the opponents of Slavery to prove that the White Laborers of the South are as happy, as contented, or as comfortable as the Negro slaves. In the South the slaves do not suffer one-tenth of the evils endured by the laborers of the North. Their misery is unknown to the Southern slave, for as soon as the master of slaves becomes too poor to provide for them, he SELLS them to others who can take better care of them. This, sir, is one of the excellencies of the system of slavery, and this is another reason why the Southern slaves have over the Northern WHITE laborers."

According to Mr. Down, then a good Democratic senator, all that the Northern laborers want is to be enabled to SELL their labor before it falls into poverty. Admirable philanthropy! Beautiful Democracy!

Senator Clemens of Alabama, declared in a speech in the U.S. Senate, that "the operatives of New England were not as well situated nor as comfortably off as the slaves that cultivate the rice and cotton fields of the South."

The New Democratic Doctrine. Slavery not to be confined to the Negro race, but to be made the universal condition of the Laboring classes of Society. 1856

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### Topic Background:

In an appeal to northern laborers, this dramatic Republican broadside linked the Democratic Party to proslavery ideology defining all labor as servile. This text was reprinted in handbills and pamphlets for the 1856 campaign. This message is a bold expression of the conflicting cultures of the free states and the slave states.

Excerpted from :

<http://www.librarycompany.org/Republican/exhibition/Republican%20label%20copy/1856Campaign.htm>

### Source(s) Used:

The sources used for this assessment is an excerpt which claims the southern slaves are being treated better than the white labors of the north.

### Answer Key:

Possible Justifications for Quotes Students Select -

1. The slaves in the south do not suffer from poverty and any other evil acts done in northern states.
2. When the slave masters get poor, they try to sell the slaves.

### The New Democratic Doctrine

....S. U. Downs, *late* Democratic Senator from Louisiana, in an elaborate and carefully prepared speech, published in the Washington Globe, says:

"I call upon the opponents of Slavery to prove that the White Laborers are as happy, as contented, or as comfortable as the Slaves of the South. In the South, the Slaves do not suffer one-tenth of the evils endured by the white laborers at the North. Poverty is unknown to the Southern slave; far as soon as the master of slaves becomes too poor to provide for them, he *SELLS* them to others who can take care of them. This, sir, is one of the excellencies of the system of slavery, and this the superior condition of the Southern slave over the Northern *WHITE* laborer."

According to Mr. Downs, then, (good democratic authority,) all that the Northern *white laborer* requires is somebody to SELL him when he falls into poverty. Admirable philanthropy! Beautiful Democracy!

"If laborers ever obtain the political power of a country, it is, in fact, in a state of Revolution."--*Speech of F. W. Pickens, of South Carolina, in Congress.*

Senator Clemens, of Alabama, declared in a speech in the U. S. Senate, that "the operatives of New England were not as well situated, nor as comfortably off as the slaves that cultivate the rice and cotton fields of the South.

Question: Does the author believe that the southern slaves are being treated better than the white labors of the north? Provide 2 examples details from the text and explain how they support your claim. (CC.RI.6.1)

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