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BASIL DUKE ON ROOSEVELT.

Some of the newspapers are making more or less noise over the recent declaration of Gen. Basil Duke that Mr. Roosevelt is right in his appointment of negroes to office and that he will be nominated by the republicans in 1904 and elected. Of course pains are taken to impress the fact upon the public that General Duke is a Southern man and a "Democrat."

All of which is misleading and intended so to be. He is a Southern man, to be sure, but he is about as much of a democrat as John Wise or General Thomas Rosser. He became one of the bitterest republicans in Kentucky in 1896 and has remained such to this day. As the attorney of the Louisville and Nashville railroad he largely planned the the campaign in which the road attempted to defeat William Goebel at the polls and elect the wretched Taylor, the republican nominee, by every dirty device known in politics—a campaign that found its consummation in the assassination of Goebel and a reign of terror and anarchy in Kentucky.

Neither in State nor national politics is General Duke a democrat and his commendation of Roosevelt means no more than the commendation of Roosevelt by any other Southern republican. It has been customary for Southern republicans to herd with negroes politically and to approve their appointment to office. Just why General Duke's speech,