

# BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

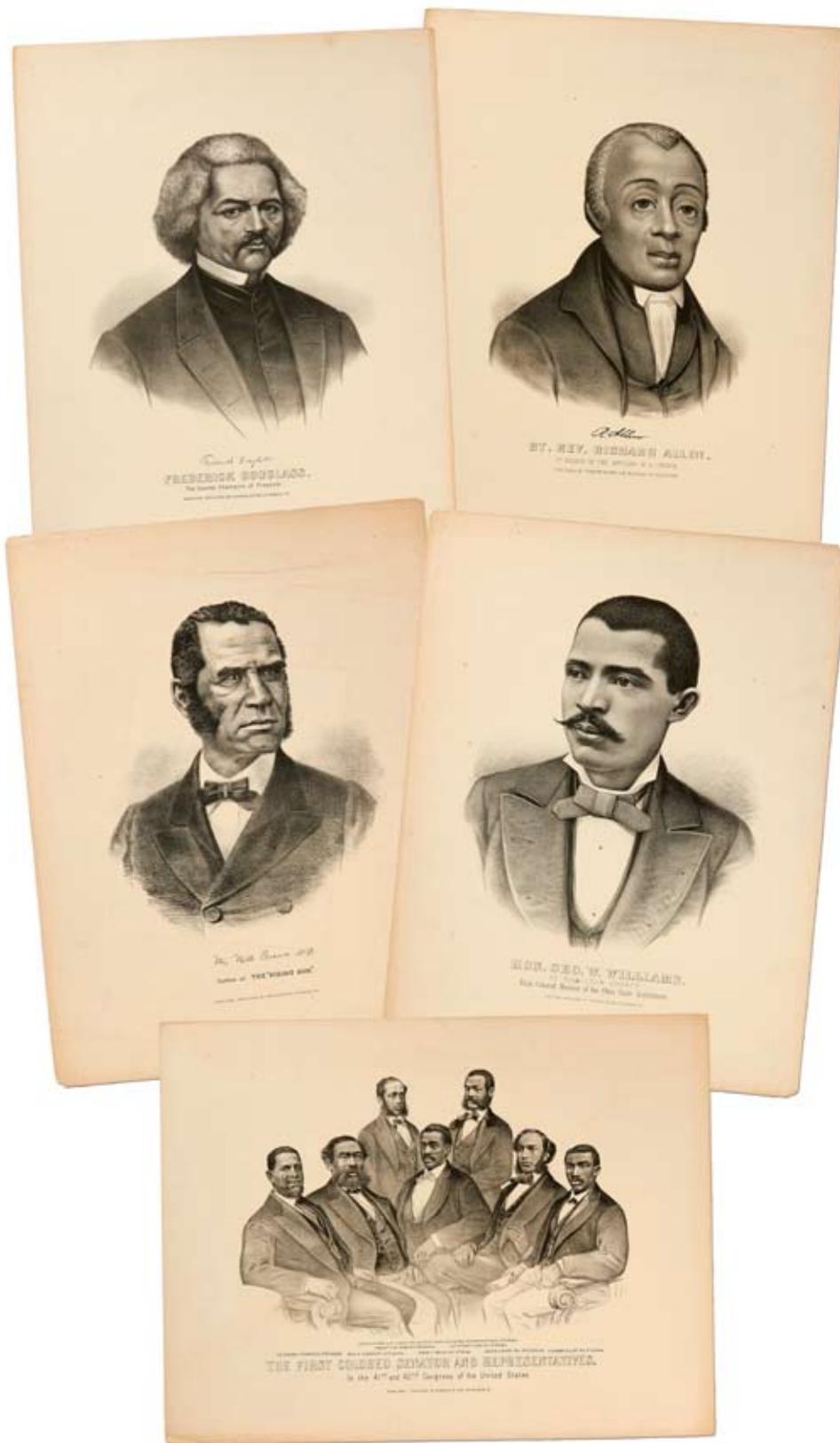
112 Nicholson Rd, Gloucester City, NJ 08030 (856) 456-8008 [betweenthecovers.com](http://betweenthecovers.com)

## (Frederick Douglass, William Wells Brown, Rev. Richard Allen, and George W. Williams)

[Lithographs]: Five Currier and Ives Lithographs of Prominent African-Americans and a Portrait of "The First Colored Senator and Representatives"

New York: Currier & Ives 1872-1894

\$25,000



Five separate lithographs. Each measuring 13½" x 17¾". Two produced at the Currier & Ives studios at 125 Nassau Street, which they occupied, 1872-1874 (Douglass and Brown); the other three at 115 Nassau Street, where the business operated, 1877-1894. All five lithographs are very good, strong images, with just a few stray scuff marks to the blank background and faint shadowing from an old mat, on the portrait of William Wells Brown.

Following the Civil War, American print companies looking for new commercial avenues were intent on marketing to all factions of the Reconstruction economy. *Harper's Weekly*, Louis Prang, Currier & Ives, and others, produced images sympathetic to white and black Southerners, and white and black Northerners. Positive print images of African-Americans elicited an enthusiastic response from Frederick Douglass, here commenting on an image of H.R. Revels done by Prang: "Heretofore, colored Americans have thought little of adorning their parlors with pictures. They have had to do with the stern, and I may say, the ugly realities of life.... Every colored householder in the land should have one of these portraits in his parlor, and should explain it to his children, as the dividing line between the darkness and despair that overhung our past, and the light and hope that now beams upon our future as people."



One of the more well-known groups of images produced by Currier & Ives in this period was the “Darktown Series” of stereotypical depictions of African-Americans. The group of images here are in stark contrast to that series, and are dignified works of a fine quality, respectfully done. Depicted are individual images of Douglass, author of the famed slave narrative and leader of the American Abolitionist Movement; Wm. Wells Brown, an escaped slave who authored both the first play and first novel by an African-American; Rev. Richard Allen, the founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church; Geo W. Williams, first African-American elected to the Ohio State Legislature and the author of the first book on the history African-Americans in the Civil War; and one group shot of “The First Colored Senator and Representatives” comprised of: H.R. Revels, an AME minister who became the first seated African-American Senator; Joseph H. Rainey, the first African-American to serves in the House of Representatives and the second to serve as U.S. Senator; Jefferson H. Long, Georgia’s first African-American Representative; Benj. S. Turner, Alabama’s first African-American Representative; Josiah T. Walls, Florida’s first African-American Representative; Robert C. De Large, South Carolina’s first Representative; and R. Brown Elliott, South Carolina’s second Representative.

OCLC locates no copies of these images, except for a smaller version of the group portrait at three locations: Library of Congress, Harvard, and Library of Michigan; and at the New York Public Library. [BTC#403236]



*Frederick Douglass.*

**FREDERICK DOUGLASS.**

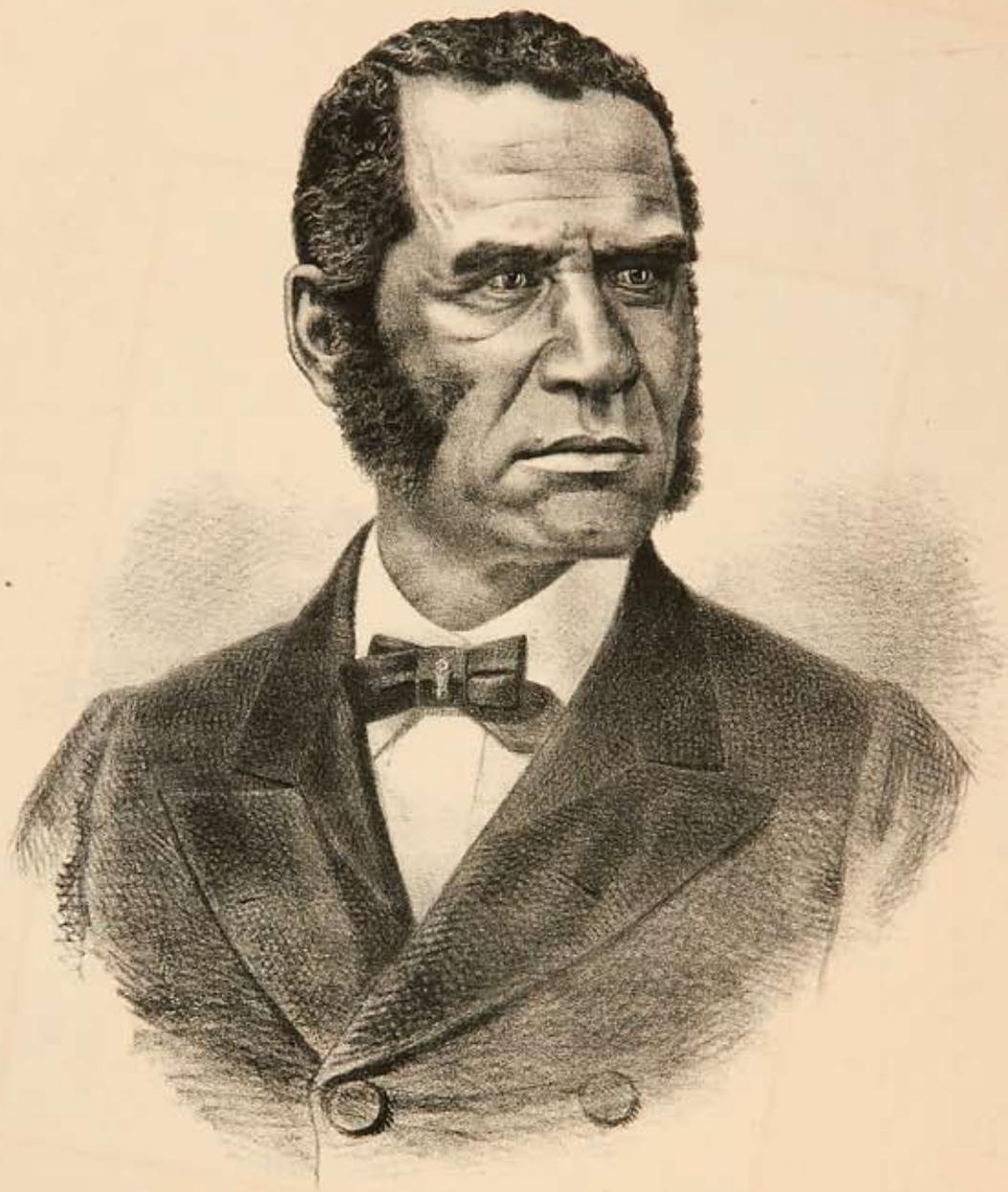
The Colored Champion of Freedom.

NEW YORK, PUBLISHED BY CURPINK & CO. 125 NASSAU ST.



HON. GEO. W. WILLIAMS.  
OF HAMILTON COUNTY.  
First Colored Member of the Ohio State Legislature.

NEW YORK, PUBLISHED BY CURRIER & IVES, 25 NASSAU ST.



*Wm. Wells Brown M.D.*

Author of "THE RISING SON."

NEW YORK, PUBLISHED BY CURRIER & IVES, 225 NASSAU ST.



*R. Allen*

**RT. REV. RICHARD ALLEN.**

BISHOP OF THE AFRICAN M. E. CHURCH

PUBLISHED BY CURRIER & IVES 115 NASSAU ST. NEW YORK.

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ROBERT C. DE LARGE, M.C. of S. Carolina.      JEFFERSON H. LONG, M.C. of Georgia.

U.S. Senator H.R. REVELS, of Mississippi.      BENJ. S. TURNER, M.C. of Alabama.      JOSIAH T. WALLS, M.C. of Florida.      JOSEPH H. RAINY, M.C. of S. Carolina.      R. BROWN ELLIOT, M.C. of S. Carolina.

# THE FIRST COLORED SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVES.

In the 41<sup>st</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> Congress of the United States.

NEW YORK. PUBLISHED BY CURRIER & IVES, 115 NASSAU ST.

*Frederick Douglass.*

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