

Sumner had made many enemies in his position he had taken. Once he had been beaten by a Congressman from South Carolina under the care of doctors for two years.

No one in the Senate was more respected than Sumner. When he rose to speak his words were taken, there was almost no opposition.

He said: "All men are created equal, and no man is superior to another. For a long time it has been so."

Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts



Jan 21, 1870



A cartoon showing Sumner in the Senate seat once held by Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy. The ghost of Davis watches. Revels, in fact, took the seat of the other Mississippi Senator, Albert G. Brown.

Senator Charles Sumner had listened quietly to the friends and foes of black men. This man from Massachusetts had fought in the Senate for the rights of blacks just as hard as Thaddeus Stevens, now dead, had fought for them in the House of Representatives.