

Wm H. Anderson

Dear Sir:

Perhaps I am impatient. Yet I have seldom seen good results attained by the attempt to force good and evil. Right is right and wrong is wrong — so far as man is concerned, at least — and the attempt to find a platform on which both can stand with out conflict, is usually a failure and the longer it is continued a success the worse failure it is.

I have recently had a striking illustration of this. If I had jumped on the Blair Bill, when it was first introduced, before he became in imagination so enthralled with glory as a result of its anticipated adoption, he would have listened to my advice no doubt. But I was afraid to antagonize him lest the purpose should lose a mouthpiece in the Senate. So, I knew it would: showed him his mistake privately, and thought you colored men, on your teachers and representatives like Armstrong and Dr Rankin, would work out the

Magnum

simple even and put a brake on his  
lumbering excitement. Even in the "Appeal  
to Caesar", I was careful to brown it  
until in order not to wound or  
frighten him, I might as well have whistled  
to a mad bull. He had traced in  
his eye and was honored for "glory in  
the grave." So I had to give him the Crash  
de Jance <sup>by the mouth</sup> Paululus Prime, which I  
was in Washington at the time the vote was taken and  
told the Republican Senators personally, its defects.  
It is better to be deprived of right for an age than  
to assent to be disappointed for an hour.

Your error was no doubt super-induced by the  
prejudice that such an exclusive <sup>franchise on educational qualifications</sup> is a spur  
to attainment. I do not think history sustains that  
view - but rather the reverse. As to the foreigner, I  
think you have mixed suffrage and citizenship. No  
immigrant ~~foreigner~~ should be allowed to become a citizen  
until he can read and write and can

understands something of our laws and government. This is right. We are not responsible for his ignorance and should not be endangered by it. The real place to apply the spur, however, in my opinion, is in compelling a people to educate in order to avoid danger.

Yes, I am going to Lindley's National Conference - not with any expectation of doing any good or getting any, but simply for the fun. I never knew any good to come out of such split and straddle efforts to make extremes meet. I want to see Hayes and Watson and Morgan and Blair Dudley Warner and about a dozen aspiring young Grady's with as many more long-range ~~of a~~ provision, know-all-about young Northern pacificators go in procession and then behold each other with mutual admiration. As for myself, thank God, I wear a contentment that can't be paid. I have an unalterable contentment for

The whole matter of watering - plain gashimms which seeks to bait the devil a little way towards heaven by agreeing not to say anything about the "airs from hell", which cling to his clothes. I shall say nothing; do nothing except absorb whatever absurdity there may be in the air.

I think such conferences are good for Mohawk and no doubt very agreeable to those who wish to hear themselves talk; but as for the Indian and the Negro, - will you might as well try to cure a cancer in your stomach by giving one bundle as expect to any good from such gatherings. They bear the same relation to existing evils that the "Colonization Society" did to the abolition movement.

It is earnest men, men who are willing to fight and die for right and who simply cannot tolerate wrong, who compell progress and remedy evils.

I am afraid the League will be a disappointment to many. But it is not to be expected that full success will crown the first effort. The position of the Colored race in America and the Irish people in Ireland grows daily more and more analogous, and you naturally meet the same obstacles. You will have to meet jealousy and distrust because the colored people have thus far regarded individual advantage as the thing to be sought by united effort. Self-advantage and present ease have got to give way in the minds of your people, to the good of the race and the welfare of the future. They are two hard lessons. Few people learn them at all and those who do generally have to learn them spelled out in stripes and blood.

More and more, I am satisfied that

the American Negro — on the American Ne-  
groid — is bound to be a chief factor  
in the world's civilization. It is the fate  
which atones for wrong and punishes injustice  
by the same mysterious result. Do not be  
discouraged. Your writing is but the train-  
ing of the swimmer; my effort is only the  
bally which tries to turn back the tide.

You have ineptness to contend with; I have to  
face the tide of centuries. You are sure to win  
because you have the unexhausted strength  
of a new people just waking from the slumber  
of ages. I have the pride of accumulated centuries  
which overwhelms the protest of right. You are  
young: I look back upon half a century. When  
you have measured as many years you may  
see even <sup>a</sup> greater growth of liberty than my man-  
dard has witnessed. Keep hoping and fighting — There

will always be enough to do the compromise-  
ing and conciliation.

The Standard is showing good qual-  
ities. I think it the best of the large number  
of journals managed by colored men  
which come to my table. I am sorry  
Dyer has started "The Southland." It will  
hurt his work in the League. The man at  
its head should know no other interest  
— worship not other God but liberty  
until his race is free. I am sorry  
— very sorry he does not see how  
great a work and wonderful oppor-  
tunity God has put before him. Never  
mind: the man will come. It may be out  
of the cotton-field or hedge-row, but he  
will be the prophet of equal right and will  
fuse his people into a weapon with which  
he will win ~~the~~ liberty for them. Yours —