

A.W.T. PAPERS

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House of Representatives U.S.

Washington, D. C. Jan. 1st 1891

Dear Judge^{and} Mrs. Sawyer,

Your kind letter of Nov. 19th last, reached Burlington after we had left there for Washington; it has only followed however, and has been before me for sometime, unanswered because I desired a little time to try^{and} get the bearings correctly, and am not satisfied now that I have them correct. One thing however is well demonstrated, and that is, the Judge is a good Prophet, but in the future I would be better satisfied if he did not give us so much gospel measure. I fear the Johnnies have got us. I used to think it would always be a badge of honor, and perhaps of distinction to us, that we served faithfully at least under the banner of the Union in the late unpleasantness, but we now see that the distinction and recognition politically goes to the fel-

House of Representatives U.S.

Washington, D. C.

18

lones who were under the other flag, in that they claim the right to wield their political power in their ballots that we do in ours, and are criminally conceding it to them. They claim the right to assassinate Republicans in the South whenever they become troublesome to their party, and are like cowards conceding it. The conspiracy to overthrow Republican Government in the South has already gone too far for the Lodge bill, even if it should become a law to remedy it. Nothing short of a miracle can save the Republican party in '92, and if the party is to be dominated by the sentiment expressed by Senator Wolcott in his speech in the Senate the other day, that the Colored man and the Republican party could afford to wait until until in time, the Democrat of the South would freely grant to the Republican all the rights exercised by themselves; they in that case the party is not worthy of ex-

House of Representatives U.S.

Washington, D. C.

18

istence, and its days of usefulness are past, and the sooner some new party with courage comes to the front the better. It is sad to think of the ~~hand~~ of the martyrs to liberty that have fallen and will yet fall in the South, and profusely in the North, before the Declaration of Independence is verified. I have fondly hoped that the Republican party would become again inspired with the old courage to do and dare to do right. If this Congress expires without some legislation that will enable the executive department of this Government to do something effective to protect Republicans in the exercise of their political rights in the South, then this is the last Republican Administration, and I think should be. The President is anxious to take the responsibility if he is given the power. He feels deeply the humiliation, and I believe he would rather die trying to protect the rights of Amer-

House of Representatives U.S.

Washington, D. C.

18

ican citizens, than to live and not make
the effort. He has grown in my estimation,
whether he has in the estimation of the coun-
try or not, but I don't believe he would accept
a nomination of our party again, unless this
Congress does something in the line indicated.
Unless this is done I shall be glad I
was defeated, for I don't propose to be under
obligations to a party that will refuse to car-
ry out the most sacred pledge for the protection
of political rights. I have not had the pleasure
of reading "Plymouth's notes lately, but venture
to endorse them; and I look forward with
pleasure to the time when he again makes
the tour of the west as a lecturer, when you
will both be my guests at my home near
Burlington, and my constituents shall
have the pleasure of hearing his lecture.
With sincere regards I am yours truly
Harrison Kelly