

Pelletts. S. Dak

Jan 15/91

Hon. Judge Lougee.
Mayville. N. Y.

My Dear Sir. It seems that I given a different impression from what I intended. I would not wish you to relax your efforts for the colored man, because other men do not possess all their rights. The idea I wished to impress was, that in working for the rights of all, you would in the long run most surely benefit the particular men whom you are striving to help.

I believe in the political and social equality of the races, and deplore the injustice that the blacks are particularly suffering from. Nevertheless I believe more in remedies

which will destroy that injustice beyond resurrection, rather than in measures which are of temporary advantage. I believe in a secret ballot for all the states, and in immediate legislation designed to protect the ballot box from fraud. But the most important thing to do for the colored man, is to make ^{him} able to defend all his rights.

No legal devices will preserve the liberties of a people, unless they are imbued with an unquenchable love of liberty. The true way to preserve the liberties of a down-trodden race is to improve their material condition. Low wages and lack of property is what holds the colored man down. And wealth, with its prestige and power is what keeps the old Bourbons

on top. I may be mistaken in my views, as to the effects of the measures I believe in, though I do not admit it only for courtesy. I submit however the proposition to you, that it is possible, you may find the longest way around, the shortest way home. If I had the choice of voting for either absolute Free Trade, or the enactment of stringent election laws in every southern state, as measures of protection to the colored man, I should choose the former. It is true the vote might be much fairer under the latter regulation. But unless their manhood is aroused and hope stimulated, they may be insensibly be used to vote for a rope to hang themselves with. It may be I am hindering the world's progress by working

as I do, even with good intentions.
Yet it is equally true of other
men also; even the best and ablest.
Political science seems to me, to be
still in the same condition that
Medical science was in the 15th
century. Men still believe in a particular
remedy for every particular ailment,
if the body politic. It does not
occur to them that one fundamental
wrong, produces a thousand separate
symptoms; or that one sweeping
reform will remove a multitude
of abuses. Christ turned water into
wine in Galilee; no doubt of that.
But men who believe it, are cock
sure that the doing of God's will
on a grand scale, in the 19th century,
will never amount to much in
improving present conditions. Thank
you very much for your attention,
and have not wished to hurt your feelings
if I have done so. Sincerely Yours, R. D. Hill