

Mayville N. Y.

Feb'y 3d 1891.

F. G. Garfield Esq

Dear Sir: Yours of the 31st is recd.

As you remark, argument between us would be wasted. So I suppose would recrimination. I am sorry to have a man of your age and antecedents say that you hope to see the time when such as I "will be compelled to keep quiet". That is the Southern method of convincing an opponent. I and such as I, believe in freedom of speech and under no circumstances would I desire to deprive you of a privilege I prize above all others.

You say I "ignore the laws of Nature and of God." That is assuming that you know God's will and cannot be mistaken as to Nature's laws. No doubt you may be right and I may be wrong, but time - whether it represents God or Man -

^{ture} seems to be pushing mankind
steadily towards my notions and
away from yours.

I confess I am always sorry for
the white man who is afraid to give
the Negro an equal chance in our
Republic. It seems cowardly to insist
on hampering one whom we have
wronged so long with unjust and
unequal conditions. Do you really
think that God is a God of justice
to the white man and of injustice
to the colored man? Could you really
worship such a God? How would you
like to wear a black skin for a while?
Yes if God should make you black
and inferior in stamens it would
be only justice would it?

It is of very little moment what
the future thinks of me; but it is of very
great moment what it thinks of my
country — our country. I hope it
will be right in the future. That is of
much greater moment than that
it should be peaceful. Peace

simply means power — it may be for good: it may be
for ~~the~~ evil. There was power before the great war: there
is still to be seen in here.

^{you} seem to take much pleasure in the idea that a young
man like mine has little more time to propagate the ideas you
so detest. I am afraid that if you should see that time
has neither wealth nor force of statistics nor even progress it
goes — that seeing the effect of armaments increased in 1878
& every year fifty — ten years as eighty as to Francis every
man — the removal of land work and on every one —
even, you would feel less confident of your ability to
outlast me and I trust you will see to be less desirous that
many should triumph in a nation founded in righteousness.

Kindly yours
Wm. A. Burleigh