

Newman, Ill., Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> 1891

C. W. Yougess Mayville New York.

I am a regular reader  
of the grandest paper ever  
published. The Inter Ocean.

How much I enjoy the  
"By standards Notes" it would be  
hard explain.

This week has in it one  
line that prompts me to write  
this. God forbid that our  
grand country ever should come  
to such a pass, How can any  
man having had the advantage  
of experience during the character  
forming period of the past  
thirty years, hope that free  
speech might come to an end.  
Why can he not go to Russia?

We go South to learn the real  
feelings of his chosen friends.

I do hope that life and  
health may long be yours for  
the down trodden of earth have  
all too few, who are ever  
ready to plead their cause.

I am of the Blackest of the  
old Abolition stock, born by fate  
too late to have a hand in the  
grandest of all struggles for the  
rights of the people (Dan 36) yet I  
can at least do my best for  
the right as "God gives me to  
see it."

In 1884 appeared Siva's letter  
in the D.C. which from the tone  
and line of reasoning I have  
always laid at your door.  
Also a Veteran & his pipe letter

I trust I am not taking up too much of your time and yet I cannot close without laying in my protest against the feeling you have expressed in regard to the republicans and the Negro. Surely there are many like us who have the cause of liberty too near our hearts to be mixed up with those dollar loving patriots.

If we could get a chance to give our verdict direct we would soon show some of our public men that it is dangerous to monkey with such things as the Loce Bill

Like the terrible McKinley  
bill it would soon vindicate  
itself were it on the statute books  
However I am of your opinion  
some what in regard to that  
bill but think half a loaf better  
than none. What a terrible mis-  
-fortune to this country should  
the negro be ever compelled to  
retaliate and yet everything  
seems to point that way.

Hoping you will continue  
to "Stir up the beasties" and  
that our country will soon  
come to their senses I will  
close this rambling letter

I am very Respectfully  
Byron E Smith

Son of one of the old Underground R.R.