

Benzonia Benzie Co. Mich. Mar 9th 1871

Hon. A. W. Tourjee

Dear Byrtander

As a constant reader of the
Inter Ocean and many of your books I value your
political views above all I read for sound argument based
on eternal truth. You talk like the sturdy abolitionists
Harrison Giddings Phillips & Greeley (before he fell)

There is & ever will be an "irrepressible Conflict" between
slavery & Freedom. It is now over yet now will it be as you
say truly as long as the haughty southern Aristocrats ride
rough shod over those who magnanimously gave them the
lives they had forfeited by treason. I say every Rebel Officer
& official ought to have been expatriated Every ex U. S.
Officer & official who violates his oath by taking up arms
forfeited his life and many of them by atrocious murders of
southern Unionists & defenceless prisoners should have
been hung. Just think what they would have done to
us if they had succeeded. They would indeed have
"called the roll of their slaves at the foot of Bunker
Hill Monument" and put every indignity upon us their
hellish natures imbruted & deadened by slave driving cruel
deeds. Keep your educational plans before the people
If we cannot lift up the poor white & negroes to hold
their own they will come again. The Aristocrats say theirs
white man's gov't and they not only let but lead their
brutal followers into the vilest frauds & bloodied butcheries

You said truly that "only their deadened sensitivities to the sufferings of those whom they considered their inferiors could have made the horrors of Andersonville possible. Would the soldiers from Mass. (N.Y., Ohio, Kansas or any northern state have allowed thousands of brave captured enemies to be starved to death? Was there a corporal guard of our soldiers who would have shot a defender of freedom who reached his hand over the "dead line" for a drink of water?"

Gov. Tillman coolly says Jefferson "lied" when he said all men were created free & equal. He cautiously says they can now be magnanimous and not butcher so many since they can have it all their own way and don't want the state to strike too hard. Post overdoes the butchery he says. I think it was Jefferson who said "I tremble for my country when I remember that God is just." Either this bulldozing fraud & butchery must be stopped by the education of all classes, by scattering school houses thru the South like they are in New England & Michigan, or else it will go on till some ^{black} leader arises who will give them retaliation. If the negroes were as revengeful as the Indians the Jolinnia would have been repaid in butchery. Abolitionists used to say "Come let us reason together" but fire-eaters said no. Keep still or be murdered. Lovejoy claimed the right of free speech & was murdered, so were many others. Union men in Texas were hunted like wild beasts. Unlimited Power makes Devils of men. The poor slaves cried O the Lord How long at last their deliverance came: Gods time will surely

come for the full vindication of the principles for which
 our Martyr died. These wrongs cry to Heaven and
 will be heard. Brotho's argument for slavery moved him
 to murder Abraham Lincoln. The rebel Gov refused to
 exchange ^{for} black soldiers and butchered them at St. Helena.
 My Father when down the Miss River ¹⁸³⁰ heard slave owners
 talk of "whipping slaves to death." He saw wire braided
 into ^{hair} whip lashes to make them more severe and lasting.
 He heard an owner say he only "wanted a slave to turn
 enough to turn around into the right row when he
 got across the field" & that "he had one who could scarcely
 do that." They did not want slaves to read the Bible
 for that denounces ^{& says all men are of one blood} kidnapping & the slave might read
 about Canada & escape. They did not like Stephen C.
 Foster's Plantation melodies and profaned the name of some of
 them because they referred to toil & death in the "cotton & the
 cane". But you keep right on in denouncing wrong.
 Cry aloud & spare not. Outbid your educational schemes
 and Election Bill and "keep them before the people." It
 "must be fought out on this line" or our nation will
 fall. If the traitors send for us again we will try &
 settle them for keeps. Christian Education, ^{must prevail} or War to the
 knife again. God grants Peace but it must be founded
 on Righteous Justice. Yours with greatest esteem
 (over) J. W. Van Deven

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My father's father was one of Washington's body guard,
with him a Valley Forge wounded slightly at Brandywine,
my mother's grandfather ^{in same Regt.} was Capt. Uriah Case of Conn.
My brother & myself were ~~in~~ when you were fighting for freedom.

Please excuse a few more lines. I had a copy of
"American Slavery as it is" or "The Testimony of a
thousand witnesses" published about 1840 and
would gladly send it to you as a present to be put
in your library and saved to history but I loaned it
to our Pres. atty, and it is now mislaid or I fear lost.

Perhaps you may remember a schoolmate
of yours Geo. J. Nuttall of Kingsville & Co. He
remembers you. He is (or was till lately) running a
brist mill here, is now chief Civil Engineer for
the Maumee & North Eastern R.R. He got off on
the Greenback craze and I am sorry to say he's
a very wump or non-descript ^{think} yet. He really is
ashamed now that he is so far from his New England
principles and I wish he and many more like him
were voting as they shot. He was with Baileys up Red
River.

Adieu, God Bless you & keep your heart
& head & tongue & pen true to him for many years
J. W. New Democrat
I wish I could aid you in your noble work