

Oberlin, Ohio
April 13/91

Hon. Albion W. Tourger:

Dear Sir:

For a long time a very strong inclination has possessed me to write to you and to express to you my deep gratitude for your heroic service in the cause of liberty and citizenship in which I, being a Black man, am so interested.

To day my inclination is irresistible and although I know you have but little time to give to the letters of "College boys," I can not refuse to obey a desire which has so long possessed me.

There are times even in Oberlin when the prospect seems gloomy and discouraging. At such times the "Bystanders Notes" have penetrated the darkness like a flood of light awakening courage, and inciting to need and endeavor. And I weep with joy at the

fact that all the friends of justice have not gone.

I almost despair some times at the constantly growing indifference on the part of the young white men of our country in regard to a matter of such vital interest as National Citizenship. College life affords abundant opportunity for observation along this line, and the revelation is not always the most encouraging. Some, however, are true to whom the recital of pledges broken, of rights ignored, of the constitution nullified, of the restriction of opportunities and privileges because of color is a serious matter, and not a provocation for "sickness" or "irresolves".

And I am glad to say that your "notes" have a powerful influence towards inculcating this feeling and sentiment.

What you say in Saturday's "notes" concerning the ingratitude of the Negro is a matter that I have often resented, and

not only myself, but scores of other young black men lament the same.

We hope that this will not always be so. Not that we consider gratitude a reward for such noble and Christ-like endeavors on your part, but we do consider it our "reasonable service".

I trust that your labors, and heroic devotion will yet tell in heroic characters, and in lives nobly lived by black men themselves.

With all the discouragements thrown across our pathway, I am still an optimist. God's promises can not fail, though American Christianity has.

Sir, I can not tell you what an inspiration your writings are to me; how they incite me with ^{hope,} and fill me with purpose. I can only pray God that I may be able to do something in my feeble way for right and humanity, as you

Love so largely done
Yours very truly
J. L. Love.

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