

Confidentially 72713 Park av.  
tent if any thought  
can be of service  
to you use it, but  
do not disclose  
my name nor place,  
nor state.

Hot Springs. Ark.  
April 16. 1891.

Judge Torgerson.

Hon. & Dear Sir:

You may forgive me in  
imposing <sup>on your</sup> busy time when you know how much  
I am interested in your writings.

I must confess that "the insults & indignities  
heaped upon the memory of Washington in this  
State & Texas of late, are enough to stir a fever  
in the blood of age" ~~but not enough~~ <sup>and</sup> but they  
do stir a fever in my old blood. But what is  
seen on the surface is not the worst of it: you  
have gone into the <sup>very</sup> ~~roots~~ <sup>veins</sup> of the case, as I did not  
think any could do who has not lived a long  
time in it. I cannot add to your <sup>deductions</sup> ~~deductions~~, but  
I can add facts to sustain them. While the North  
in its indifference & busy selfishness is sleeping on  
this subject, the South is growing stronger every  
day & more united. Many in their charity & kindness  
at the North thought the South was merely playing  
with their pet bubble & would soon get tired of it.

the sentiment was really growing deeper & stronger  
I speak, of course, of the leading & controlling element.  
What we see on the surface is the legitimate result  
of poor teaching, in the first place - the social & political  
follow. The old opulent families in the South are  
like the old aristocracy of France, under the sign  
of the Napoleons, they neither forgive, nor forget, &  
their children seek succession from the hands of their  
mothers! The women are often more spirited in  
the matter than the men - they feel the loss of home,  
servants & fortunes, very keenly. Their proud social  
position has been humbled, both at home & abroad.  
While some admit that secession was not good  
policy they all earnestly contend for the "principles."  
They are careful that their sons should never get  
the idea that their parents & friends were wrong  
in what they did, & so young men are growing  
up all over the South fully imbued with the spirit  
of their fathers. They are willing to fight again for  
the "principles" or to arrange the wrongs done their  
fathers & country. I have been told by some  
of them that if they had the power they would  
All it needs is the occasion. And every where, from the remote Allegheny to the  
break up the Union in a minute. What is to be  
dry-goods, & of the country store is heard the cry, that unless force would be re-  
the out-come of all this state of things.  
- queried to <sup>secure</sup> the colored man the exercise of his legal right then it looks as if  
down rebellion. So people of the north think that with this show of unflinching anti-

the sentiment of a  
and so  
more openly assertion of a  
the spirit of  
and men are  
on secession

(3. page)

With the blindness & greed  
for gain in the North, & labor troubles,  
& this state of things in the South,  
I confess, there is the darkest look a-  
head, for me, in all my life - darker  
than at any time during our late war.  
God only knows, (if he has anything  
to do with us now).! What will be  
the out come of it all.

What shall we think of the acts  
of a high toned Christian(?) governor  
of this state, who could furnish  
armies, on the sly, to help carry the  
election in which Clayton was  
murdered, & then he of the legislature  
offer a reward for the apprehension of  
the assassins! All this is the purest  
gammow to throw dust in the eyes  
of the outside world. No more  
have been forced on our throats.

Said governor is now on the suspension  
bench in this state! Such a man

Other families are at the bottom  
of all our troubles & the seed is not  
yet. All other men are but tools for  
the ends of small officers on white dom-  
inance. But you know all this  
or much more, & I need not write,  
but I must say a little as a  
kind of safety valve, or my "poiler"  
may be placed.

Among all these men there is  
no conscience, & the only hope I  
have is in the latent good sense  
of the South & the self interest of all  
the country, to save the Union.

Talk of educating the South  
into the ideas of the North! The  
South rejects them with disdain  
& are educating their young  
in their own ideas faster than in  
anything else, & much faster than  
the North seems to understand.  
In fact, some have told me

the Co. will force them west of the mountains  
the Co. will force them west of the mountains  
that before long the North would  
embrace the Southern teaching!  
As the North cultivates its  
fruits on the <sup>ashes of</sup> <sup>Rebellion?</sup> <sup>of a volcano?</sup>

In the colored man is the best  
hope of the South & the Union.  
The South would be bankrupt  
in a short time, if it were not for  
the negro. He is, also, the pillar  
of political honesty. He has more  
practical intelligence than most  
of the whites. He learns faster by  
observation than most of the whites  
even where they can read. He has  
been lied to & lied about continually  
by unscrupulous liars or interested  
parties. He is not ungrateful gen-  
erally, not so much as most of  
the whites. He has been true to  
the Republican party, <sup>that had him</sup> generally, under  
all the disadvantages of his dependence  
upon his enemies. They who are

generally poor, but they are honest  
than the whites & more to be depended  
upon in their contracts & business.  
I feel are kinder & better persons than  
the whites & true friends. That they  
have failed in some things is not  
strange, as they were poor & did not  
always know what was expected  
of them. If rich men & the north had  
neglected philanthropists could  
poor colored men that know little  
or nothing of the matter be expected  
to rush to the rescue after giving all  
their lives to rich white men, back to the  
South? - Why don't some of the  
white liars say something about  
the poor, ignorant & distressed whites  
that abound in the South, that are  
true to nothing but "corn & dogs" or  
whiskey & their "white respectability"?

And last, but not least, the negro  
is more honest than any class in  
the South & more industrious.

Unless these negro rights are pro-  
tected the whole nation will suffer.  
Very Respectfully  
Augustus Hammond.