

Clay City Ills

April 20-91.

The Bystander.

Dear Sir. -

I frequently read your  
notes in The Inter Ocean  
and really and truly admire  
the pluck and sagacity  
displayed in upholding  
and spreading the doctrine  
of political equality. I see  
in your last letter you  
refer to a Southern correspon-  
dent who speaks of the  
ingratitude and incapacity  
of the negro. This writer  
is surely misinformed

or is wilfully misrepresenting the real conditions of the American negro when he says they are deteriorating, are not grateful and can not appreciate a favor shown. He undoubtedly failed to acquaint himself with the growth in wealth and intellect of the negro, or he is, with usual Southern arrogance, trying to frown down what is to him a painful truth. No doubt this Southerner thinks that a negro, however well qualified, after being refused admittance as a laborer in the shops, mills, mines, factories, railroads &c should feel thankful if given a

job of mowing grass in his back-yard. Luckily the negro being interspersed among the masses has made his mark so that no one need be misled by the vituperations of selfish prejudiced negro-haters. While there are, like Republicans who would like to dispense with the negro as a political factor, it can be plainly seen in every national Republican Platform since the birth of the republican party that it means equal rights to all and special privileges to none. The Negro can see that every piece of legislation calculated to better his condition has been favored by republicans.

and opposed by Democrats. The Republican Party can see that the negro is a stronger power than the 'Lily Republican'. The former has held the balance of power for a number of years, has voted with the republicans almost solidly thereby entitling them to the gratitude of the Republican party. So much can be said in the way of party advantage, but if we allow sentiment to enter the subject your Southern Correspondents letter seems to me to be void of reason or sense.

Respectfully,

Saml G. Hicks