

Hutchinson Kansas

Aug. 17-1891

Rev. Albion W. Tourgee  
Mayville N.Y.

Sir

I have just finished <sup>reading</sup> your Bystander's notes in the Inter Ocean of the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. Allow me as a white man that was born and reared until 20 years of age surrounded by the blighting curse of Slavery and one that served 3 years and ~~seven~~ months in the Union Army to thank you from the bottom of my heart for that article. If it could be read by every <sup>true</sup> surviving veteran of the ~~of the~~ Union it would certainly touch their hearts as it has mine and would bring vividly to their minds the time when in a large portion of this great Republic that <sup>the</sup> only persons male or female we could appeal to for help without fear of betrayal wore black or dark colored faces. The first report that I saw of the ~~on~~ recommendation for separate departments for the colored veterans I gained the impression that it had <sup>been</sup> adopted by the Encampment so the law of the organization. I immediately

wrote a letter to the Commander of the Post where I have my membership demanding an unconditional discharge from the organization stating that I did not intend to ever enter a Post room again, but upon further investigation I found that the proposition had only been recommended and I was made glad on the following day when I learned that the infamous proposition had been overwhelmingly defeated and what added greatly to my joy was the fact that <sup>the</sup> proposition had been led by a delegate from my own native State, Maj. Warner of Missouri.

I sometimes ask myself the question will the Youngest of us ~~see~~ veterans live to see the principles for which we marched and fought and suffered in prison be respected and cherished by the people in all parts of the country.

But since the betrayal of those principles occurred in the U.S. Senate last winter I have about come to the conclusion that we will never see it. There are too many men that think more of free silver than they do of free men and women. Yours with best wishes  
W. S. Starr