

Personal

Wayville N. Y.

Aug 30th 1891.

John Mitchell jr

My dear Sir:

I have your letter of the 24th with enclosures.

I have received the Ploughman and there could be no familiarity with its character since the first issue. I was aware of the list you had published and certainly meant no reproach to you by the remarks you refer to. I believe I fully realize the difficulty of the task before the colored man — more fully than many of the race themselves. Especially, do I appreciate the difficulty of one in your position. You have well illustrated the fact that courage is the best policy for your people. I wish only to give you a better

rank among your own people,
but from what I learn from
the friends of liberty in England, I
think the Planch is better known
than ~~than~~ any paper edited by a
colored man in this country.

At the same time I meant every
word I wrote on the subject — I
always do for that matter — and I
fully believe the time has come for
the race to stand up and be counted
in its own behalf. It was given free-
dom; it must conquer liberty. Not
necessarily with the sword — though
a good many will have to die
for their rights before they are fully
free — but the main thing is to
convince the world that they
are in earnest and are ready
to die if need be. Protest, remon-
strance, denunciation — con-

tenacious, passionate, determined;
— these are, in my opinion, the only
things that will save your people
from submissive apathy and give
them hope of final equality of privilege.
To this every true man's energies should
be directed. I tried to inspire the "league"
to engage in this work — and got
slapped for my pains. The truth is
that a good many of those who were
to the fore in your race, think too
much of being considered "good
niggers", rather than true men. Others,
like Douglas, represent a just spirit. Em-
ancipation came too late in his life
for him to realize its quality and
character. He had long before cut
loose from his people — he had

made his mark and that mark
was his misfortune. We can see
now that if Mr. Douglas had been
able to lay aside his renown and
cash himself heart and soul into
the work of educating his people,
he would have kept his hold
upon the country and today
have been the spokesman his race
so much needs before the people
of the North. But he did not do it -
could not do it. Like all the old abo-
lition champions, he thought emanci-
pation was the end of all difficul-
ty having its root in race-relations.

The present is a new problem - a
new crisis - and familiarity with
the old one hardly helps in its

solution. It is a pity, but one cannot
relish the conviction that the
failure of Mr. Douglass to identify
himself with the great movement
for enlightenment after emancipa-
tion, has been of great injury to
his people. It is a good illustration
of the set down and let alone
policy so many advocates and
which has, indeed, colored the man's
life since emancipation.

As a matter of fact, there are
wrongings enough perpetrated on the
colored people in every county of
the South to stir a fever in
the blood of age. Suppose the people
of the North could know the
fraudulent contracts, violated agree-

events; unrighteous convictions;
infamous sentences; seductions;
cases of ~~an~~ illegitimate miscegenation
or, in many populous counties
of the South, — what ~~could~~ not be
the result?

Remember the Northern people
are tired of killings. They have be-
come an old story. Besides, the
Yankee thinks it just a little worse to
rob than to kill. If the actual facts
of your business and social con-
ditions could be made known
it would soon put a new
complexion on the case. It has
got to be a new fight showing
the essential injustice and unequal-
ity of conditions. Unless this is done

the day of real liberty is very far off.

The success of the Kildare has given the Southern whites a profound confidence for the government and the North. It has also given them a great confidence for the Negro as a man, they think he will stand everything. They are sensitive about the world's opinion however, and if you attack them persistently as cheats and misrepresentationists you make some impression on them. I believe the race would be aggressive in the assertion of its rights if it could win peacefully. If it is willing to wait and take the chances of a great outbreak, by and by, that's another matter.

Wishing you success I remain
Yours truly
Wm. W. Sawyer