

LEADER EDITORIAL ROOMS.

CLEVELAND, O., Nov 15 1891

My Dear Sir:-

I have just read your "Bep Tander's Notes" in the Inter Ocean of 14th inst, and am so impressed with the object you have in view that I want to know more about it. "A Citizens' Equal Rights Association" ought to be a great power for good. As General Grant said in 1880, "There is not a precinct in this vast nation where a Democrat cannot cast his ballot & have it counted as cast, no matter what the predominance of the opposite party. He can proclaim his political opinions, even if he is one among thousands, without fear and without proscription on account of his opinions. There are fourteen states and some localities in others where Republicans

have not this privilege." Every good citizen in the United States ought to be enrolled in an association which aims to wipe out this wrong.

Abraham Lincoln found inspiration for his great and good work by constantly keeping uppermost in his mind the principles embodied in the declaration of independence, and advocated by the founders of our government. Through all of his great campaign speeches he kept prominently to the front the doctrine of the equality of mankind and the equal rights of all classes under the constitution and laws. He said repeatedly that the people must return to the basic

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fair source of American freedom. That gave him his strength, his enduring confidence in the triumph of right, his courage to sustain the mighty burden that he carried; made him "the pillar of a nation's hope" and left him a place in history among the great benefactors of mankind. Since the war we allowed ourselves to depart from the Declaration of Independence. Equality has been set at naught; the constitution has been defied and the rights it grants have been trampled upon. What the nation most needs is a general uprising in favor of a pure ballot. Every man who loves his country whatever his politics, should

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enlist in this movement. If, in fourteen states, the ballot is not so cast and counted as to ~~express~~ reflect the expressed will of the people in those states, then they are not under a Republican government. They are not ruled according to the constitution, and it should be the duty of all patriotic citizens of other states to bring them under the organic law of the land.

I hope you will permit me to aid you in any way in my power in the good work you have undertaken and that your efforts will be crowned with success.

My wife joins me in sincere regards to you and Mrs. George.

Cordially yours,
John L. Lovett.