

W. K. Drake:

My dear Sir: You will have  
you can see in the work I have undertaken.  
I don't know; that is for each man to deter-  
mine for himself.

Perhaps if I tell you briefly something  
more about it you will see. To begin with, this  
is my creed:

I believe there are more good  
men than bad; more just men than  
men more than men than men;  
more common sense than stu-  
pidity:

If this is true, then there is a big and a  
party of men who either -

- 1 - Believe in the exertion and  
maintenance of the equal rights  
of citizenship, because it is just;
- 2 - Or regard it as an act of pru-  
dence because it is al-  
ways easier to cure an ail in its  
incipient than in its chronic state  
or
- 3 - Comprehend that injustice, bar-  
barism, deprivation of right and  
defiance of the universal will  
continued for a considerable  
time is just as sure to end in

over on summer as dawn is to  
ripen into day.

~~Whether this~~ ~~is~~ ~~also~~ ~~true~~ ~~as~~ ~~I~~  
~~believe~~ ~~that~~ ~~if~~ ~~any~~ ~~thing~~ ~~like~~ ~~ever~~ ~~is~~ ~~=~~  
~~erible~~ ~~number~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~citizens~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~  
~~United~~ ~~States~~ ~~say~~ ~~over~~ ~~their~~ ~~own~~  
~~signatures~~ ~~that~~ ~~they~~ ~~mean~~

- 1 - To see the National authority obeyed in Mississippi just as well as in Illinois.
  - 2 - That every man shall have not merely the right but the privilege of free speech.
  - 3 - That every citizen shall have his due and lawful share of power in the government,
- then and in that case, one of two things will happen, to wit, either
- (1) Mob rule will cease
  - (2) It will ripen into general ~~defiance~~ ~~as~~ ~~unruled~~

or revolution.

In either case, I think my sense of common sense is bound to conclude that, "there will be what is to be done more done quickly."

Now, what I am trying first to do, is to find out how many men agree with us in conviction, after that to consider how to make our conviction most effectual in the cure of evil.

The work for the present consists of three elements:

- 1- Organization: that is the enrollment, classification and solidification of this sentiment.
- 2- The enrollment of new members.
- 3- The equipment of persons soliciting applications.

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As to the first, after watching many failures, I have tried to find one that is simple, cheap, flexible, efficient. I don't see how there can be any split or quarrel in it or how anybody can make it the instrument of his own personal ambition.

As to the second, everybody has some friends and can get some recruits, if he believes in what he claims to believe.

As to the third, I can send out circulars, etc., only as I am able to do so. I am a poor man working as hard as any laborer for daily bread and can only give a certain amount of time, thought and supervision to the matter. Of course, circulars, lists, envelopes and postage cost money.

It is largely a question of cost anyhow.  
The matter is as sure to ripen into peril, <sup>if let alone,</sup> as a rattlesnake  
to grow in the sunshine, <sup>if</sup> but if any  
one chooses to wait and pay the full  
price in blood and tears as well as the  
enormous interest which attaches to pres-  
ent deferred, I certainly am not called  
upon to rebuke or persuade him. I have  
only to do what I ~~can~~ and to  
help others to do what they see fit to  
do through me, leaving the rest undone  
without self-reproach. I believe that even  
a tithe of those who feel as we do, if  
they will give a few hours or a few  
dollars each, may save the Nation from  
a fate more terrible than war —  
a down of blood and massacre  
which ~~cannot~~ no treasure can  
compensate us for. Numbers, sincerity  
and strength are all that are required  
to accomplish this. Numbers are essential  
— the price essential. A million men  
can do more <sup>for liberty now</sup> by joining their voices,  
than the thousand richest millionaires  
by joining & uniting their fortunes, <sup>trying</sup>  
More than that numbers are wanting —  
to join. The sentiment exists: shall it  
be cemented?

Thus far the postage has been met  
by excess of some applicants. The  
printing and stationery have been  
about half paid by contributions.  
The work <sup>of enrollment, mailing, &c.</sup> has been done by  
myself and family.

No one has been asked for  
money for these purposes and  
I shall never ask it. It is just  
as much the interest of every  
citizen who believes as we do as  
it is mine. ~~I will try to do what~~  
~~I can and what I can do~~  
~~will leave undone.~~ If I were  
able I would put out 100,000  
lists and circulars before Jan 1-1872  
and if I could, the Republican politicians  
would wake up next year to the ne-  
cessity of doing justice as well as  
(over)

"hollerin'" about the seeming liberty  
granted to the colored man.

That is all I know now.

~~Sincerely~~  
If you can find anything to  
do in this scheme now is a  
good time to do it.

Sincerely yours

Wm. Douglas