

~~Miss Miss~~

Miss Thelma H. Lewis:

Dear Madam.

I usually know whether it is ill-health or the over-burdening mass of work imposed by the N.C.R.A. which has so long delayed my purpose to send you a line - a thing I am able to do to best of the hundreds who write daily about the Citizens' Rights Amendment. Yours, as it chanced, was the first letter from a colored woman. It impressed me greatly by its tone of simple gentleness and desire to achieve a worthy cause. Yours for the N.C.R.A. is convincing on its own weight rather by the simplicity of willing hearts. I determined not to endeavor to urge or extend it; but to let it live or die as the American people might well wish to do. Only one thing I determined to attempt, to make it practical, keep out money and controversy and have it drop like a trap - however, squarely.

on the one pivotal question of the Rights of the citizen.  
I do not believe there can be secured by clamor  
and parades and bass drums - sound and fury -  
- but if we can get the American people to  
sign and certify a belief that they must be ac-  
- corded, - it will not be a great while before  
the thing will be done.

~~While~~ Of course, there is work for you, - per-  
haps more than you may think - for if you  
cannot vote, the colored woman is the main-  
spring of her race's progress and the foundation of  
its hope. There is no question but liberty has found  
her true to her new opportunity in the woman,  
than the colored man. So we want her  
name and we especially want her to get the  
votes to sign your - for it is only the voter  
who stuffs a club hard enough to break  
a politician's head and make him remember

to reason and justice. Many thanks for  
your kind offer and I have directed not  
one but several blanks to be sent to you.  
Put them in hands that will see that they are  
filled.

Philadelphia will of course be a center of the N.C.P.A.  
in time but thus far, you are the only member while  
other cities are coming up so fast that we come hardly  
supply them with certificates and lists. Beyond bye Phila-  
delphia will make up two.

I hope you will excuse me for asking <sup>an apparently in-  
pertinent question</sup> but you  
will some time perhaps learn the reason. I would  
like to know your age, in what schools educated,  
& occupation if you have one, if not, your father's.  
It would seem as if the bond and the ~~first~~ American  
people had taken hold of this matter, and if that be true  
I trust that with ~~a~~ the common blessing to our  
land if it may bring especial pleasure to the first col-  
ored woman whose warm heart impelled her to  
ask admission to its ranks. You are young now; you  
may be old before its work is accomplished, but it may  
in the meantime bring much of joy to you and the race

whose views you so ~~fully~~ generously make your  
own. &

I suppose you see the Doctor = Review. If not  
I would advise you to take the Weekly. - it is only  
\$1<sup>00</sup> per annum and will has the Bygone =  
series it regularly.

  
CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013