

Maplesburg Va 1913/94

My Dear Bystander

I expect to call upon you in Dec 92 but you had told me you would be away about Dec 15 which was the day I passed along there & I did not stop. I am here appreciating your valuable book "The Fisherman," I came here to go into the oyster business and embarked in it with all the funds I had at command expecting more from sale of land and other sources, but the panic came upon us and lands could not be sold and oysters could not be sold, so I am stranded like many other business men. My Bro. who was going in with me, was put out of his place as Chief of Divn of Pomology & Hort. by Morton and could not keep up his share of funds nor sell any of

his real estate in which he had
considerable money invested.

So we are trying to make
bricks without straw. We have
interests in oysters & shells
on the Chesapeake Bay also.
All lies under the cloud of Dem.
free trade. But we hope to live it
through. That is neither here
nor there

I want to talk down
about Southern politics as it
looks to me. I am greatly inter-
ested in your notes and take
the winter Ocean so as to get
them regularly. When in N.Y. or
I got from Rep. Com. "The Tariff
Pledge" & a key there to an old
debate among other documents
that shows how southerners in
1830 regarded the color question.
They wished to bring all northern
labor to a level with slaves at
1 dollar a day (cost of food & clothes)

January 1832 (cont.)

McCaffie, and other S Carolina
leaders said to my ³⁸²⁷ Congress.
^{statement of their}

I can confirm that policy by
what the common people tell
me here and now, they say
that the Slaveholders had got
to owning their own blacksmiths
and carpenters, and poor men
could get no work to do except in
competition with them. It was a
disgrace for a white man to work
any how many thoughts think
so yet and hate to have to work
in competition with them.

But the labor problem
here is very simple and colored
people do very well at farming.
These two Counties of Accomack
& Northampton are cut off from
the main body of Va and were
not much ^{damaged} by the war,
since the R. Y. P. & N. R. R. ran
down this peninsula ^{now} & with
rice berries, and sweet ^{now} potatoes
and depend for market on the

The common people can see very
clearly & acknowledge that if
the northern factories stop they
will not get so much for their
produce and now ~~they are only clearing~~
~~from 30 to 50~~ instead of ~~1.40~~ ^{1.60} ~~3.00~~
per barrel for sweet.

This is an object lesson to them
but the old leaders "won't see it," they
say it is over-production &c

And this brings me to the
"What are we going to do about it?"
all we can do is to keep on "line
upon line" trying to educate men
and stiffen their back bones.

When it comes to voting the
most of these men will vote as
the old lines tell them and what
else can they do, there is no use
in running Republican tickets here.
The local offices are pretty well
conducted by their Dem. incumbents and
there are scarcely white Republicans to
help them. It costs so much less of cash
to be a Rep. that many have gone back
or joined the Prohibition party.

And that brings us to confront the fact that there are not black men enough well enough qualified to hold office, at least so it seems to me. The greatest loss to the cause of the negro was the failure of the Educational Bill by the senators who failed to do their duty.

The south needs education for both races. The old F.F.V. idea of a few of the higher class owning the land and ruling the masses yet prevails in their descendants so far as they can keep it up. But gambling, horse-racing & drunkenness to which the "Clivedry" were brought up has used up many families so they have no influence. But the lawyers are usually as fierce as ever. I have mostly associated with common people who worked for me or live near my place of business, but I see some times the sharp claws from under the fur of the lawyers I have met. They hate

every one who hated slavery. I
was talking with a prominent
elderly lawyer and his son in law
a prof. of languages in ^{Randolph-} Macon College
and talking about philology and
southern phraseology and idioms
I asked his opinion of Geo. W. Cable's
stories of Creole life & language.
He did not know much about him
but disliked him and the old man
put in that the Boston people got
hold of him & got him to say any
thing they wanted.

I forbore to ask about their
opinion of you because I feared I
might start a wrangle at a
friend house if they had ever heard
of you they would ana themize you.
When my opinion is asked I speak
my sentiments frankly but avoid
politics as yet because my family
is not here and I have not voted.
I find a few Republicans. I cultivate
acquaintance & slip all I can for I am
lonely and it is disconsolate to offend
your host & hurtless when visiting

I exchange papers with neighbors
and tried to get subscribers to the
Julia Dean but could not. They
don't want to see both sides and
are intolerant of contradiction.

I loaned (or gave) a "Trich, Christian
Advocate" of July 9th '94 to family &
visit where I got my mail brought
from the P.O. Capt Frank S. Smith
is one of natures noblemen but an
old line dem. I had given the paper
for Mrs. S. & the ladies to read an
article praising Miss Willard as
an "Uncrowned Queen" and Mrs.
S. had the paper laid up to return to
me as if she did not want it.
in the visit she said it was
"so black against the South"
There was an article about the intolerant
spirit of the southern people towards
Bishop Joyce who accepted the baptism
of a colored person in Penn &
Rev Henry L. Forte Rector of Christ ch.
at St Jo. Ave. who invited a colored

minister to partake of lunch with
him and other white persons in
the church parlor at an entertainment
and is threatened with excommunication &
ostracism because of it. I said
that I did not notice the offending
article as I would not have wished
to disturb the feelings of a lady so
kind hearted as she. But she went on
& said they had been slaveholders
and knew their slaves had been better
off then than they are now in
freedom but she acknowledged that
there were exceptions and abuses
and then she had found another
article in the same paper about
Mrs Stowe's writing of Uncle Tom's Cab.
saying "God dictated it" and seemed to
think that statement ^{too} horrifying to
contemplate. I said very little as
there was not time then and she had
company but I shall try this talk on
her and ask if Jesus himself would
not have eaten with the colored brother,
and if God's word does not condemn
stealing a man & selling or using him.

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Of course they were brought up to
the mildest form of slavery & did
care well for their negroes, made
garments for them and only occa-
sionally sold one, but I shall say
that the horrors depicted in ⁱⁿ Uncle Tom,
were verified and exceeded many
times and were proven in H. B. Fields
"Testimony by thousands of witnesses"
some of whom I knew. She had never
read Uncle Tom, she said, & would not I
suppose. I want to ask, or have
you ask his Willard of slave
eat with negroes in Town or Va.
I have not because my time is not
yet come" when I can dare to face
the scorn of such families as I visit
here as an equal. I came here as a
capitalist to help build up the country
but the Panic has so crippled me I
cannot buy as many new clothes as
I need, or ^{to replace} as many as I have given
away since I came here.

another man ~~an~~ educated at a Southern
Baptist Institute who has ruined him-
self & wrecked his fortune by drink
& women & teaches school for a living)
told me at his table that Uncle Tom
was untrue and the Revd. Minister
who sat by me at his table said so
too, and cited an anecdote of a colored
man from the South whose parents
had been kidnapped in Africa and
christianized and uplifted by the
Divine Institution Slavery who when
confronted by the King of Dahomey
or some other African Heater on
the midway. Plaintiff refused
to recognize him as a brother, he
considered himself so much superior.
I know it will take time to raise the
negroes but must keep a bold front to
the enemy and this same educated man
had 3 mulatto daughters as well
joined & one of them much resembling
one of his own daughters at his table.
When a merchant he kept this black
minister & raised 3 daughters by her to the
great grief of his white wife & family.

This is negro equality with a vengeance and your sarcasm in previous notes & your books are very apt. There is a white woman living with a white husband in sight of me as I write who has a mulatto girl with woolly hair yet she claims her to be white and says taking consideration ^{black} her blackness ^{black} but we believe it and the girl's father is said to have spent lot of money on the woman when he was with her. That is part of the cause of slavery. There is not much out growing or up lifting of such poor white trash and not much chance either, as they can't teach a slave and won't work in kitchens ^{her girls} so are becoming prostitutes to black & white ^{wife} as same I hear. That is southern life and I am wondered at for being continent and not going to these wenches since my business keeps me away from my wife and I don't want her here till I can keep her comfortably as I wish.

One of my friends in this Co. had a plan of a negro settlement of say 1000 acres laid off in 20 & 40 a. lots with houses at corners of quarter sections, furnishing them seed and a mule & plow for first yr. and as fast as they could require them to pay for them & for their 20 or 40 paying rent & interest meantime & if any would not pay with proper promptness put him out of the community - by foreclosure of Contract.

This would encourage the negro haters and would need a firm hand ^{& capital} to carry it on to success. In some such ways the race may be brought up, but it will take years & generations to bring some of them to anglo saxon standard. Christian education for white & black is the only hope. Slavery was wrong & the southerners know it but

hate to be told so very plainly.
Genl Horner ^{& others} & Rev Cave should
be told very plainly that they
were wrong and should be
unarmed to eulogize traitors who
ought to have been hung or
banished for beginning ^{the war} & keeping
up a hopeless cause after they
saw that England would not recog-
nize them because they clung to
slavery.

There is no use in evading
the truth of history and Vice Pres
A. G. Stevens said Slavery was the
corner stone of the confederacy
Mrs. Smiths Richmond Christian
advocate admitted a few weeks
ago that the war was about Slavery,
I wish I could meet you & talk with
or meet at Lake Mohonk, and
confer what can be done to
further the advancement of ^{the negro}

Please excuse my lengthiness &
acknowledge with catalogued
your books and keep on pouring
hot shot on evil & oppression.
I wish I could circulate & get
these people to read Uncle Tom
But they have not magnanimity
If they had conquered, the north
would have been ruled with a
rod of iron

You very Respy

J. W. Van Duzen