

Res

Prof. J. C. Price.

My dear Sir: I congratulate the League upon the selection it made for ^{its President} the Presidency, and yourself upon the opportunity for the accomplishment of great and beneficent results which is thus opened before you. ~~The~~ Only once in an age is such an opportunity ^{to change} ~~to~~ flex the world's thought and destiny ~~for~~ made possible ~~to~~ any individual. It is not ^{your} the race alone but the world's civilization, ~~and~~ political systems and the quality of Christian thought, that is liable to be affected by the operations of the League, if skilfully and wisely directed.

As far as we may judge antecedently, I should say that the Convention made no mistake in your selection. In tactical power I know of no man of the race who is your superior or, indeed, your equal; and the power will be very severely tested.

Success can be predicted of no man
in your position. Yet you ought not to
fail. A very little scrutiny will show
you the especial ^{that confront you} dangers, and I think con-
vince you that my statement to the Com-
mission was none too strong, that the
prime essential ^{for me} in your position,
is "the supreme power of silence".

Your first difficulty to take it, will be from
accidents ^{among} your own people. This, ^{trudner} feeling and
evolution, Fortnum, who is simply a self-seeking
self-seeking, ambitious, demagogue, will ^{un-}
questionably foster. Do not allow him to speak
for you and whenever occasion offers, withdraw
yourself as much and as positively as you can
with all gentleness, from the area of his in-
fluence. He lacks the one essential of serious
and successful manhood - sincerity. He is
not a bad man; he only believes what a
cunning rather than ^a sagacious mind, intelli-
gence inclines him to consider his own in-
terest. He approves and favors nothing ex-
cept what he conceives to reflect himself,
and, consequently, is ^{not} a man who
for any great ^{length of time} ~~will~~ can command
confidence. This is rather a defect than a
fault on his part, he being one of those

men who see their ^{own} desires so constantly ^{before them} that they can never be quite honest with themselves.

In my judgment the first and greatest danger of the League will be through his indiscretion. His idea of heaven is to be the focus of attention and he would see his name at the head of it if it would make the world talk about him. I doubt if you will be able to secure accord until he is eliminated and that will require infinite patience and tact on your part.

The Convention did exceedingly well in refining from the attitude of prayer and not sending a delegation to Congress on the President. The act was manly, intelligent, impressive. The declaration of objects is brief, distinct and manly, though too narrow and too much given to particulars. (By the way the word avocations is a mistake that should be remedied. It means incidental for occupations: avocation, signifies a business or calling.)

My chief criticism on the declaration of objects would be that it exhibits a little unnecessary timidity. The success of the League and the welfare of the cause can only be secured by awakening in its

from the brain and conscience of the ~~white~~
mass of white Christians in the land.

The first step in ~~do~~ accomplishing this
is of necessity, the passing of infor-
mation. What the white people of the
North require is — and of course, it
is to the sentiment of the people of the
North that we must look for the ul-
timate amelioration of unfavorable con-
ditions — what they first require is elab-
orate, reliable and incontrovertible evidence
of unfair conditions. They want to know
about facts which are just as familiar
to you and me, as the alphabet, but
which from their false conceptions
they cannot conceive. The gathering
of this information, as you know, is not
only a matter of great labor but of
a good deal of danger to those giv-
ing the information. Yet, if the people
of the North understood how many
there are who suffer and how
they suffer under the laws and

customs of the South, they would soon
be ready to find a way out of the
^{difficulty} ~~matter~~. It seems to me you are per-
haps ~~the~~ fortunate in being at liberty to
organize and administer this branch of the
work in your own way. If you can some-
how raise the funds or procure the neces-
sary clerical ^{labor} ~~work~~, you have a mag-
nificent opportunity to do a wonderful
work for God and man. Could you
not organize a volunteer clerical Bureau
in your school at a moderate cost.
If I can do anything to persuade any one
who has money, to help you ^{in your work} ~~in this branch~~
I shall be glad to do so. It is your work
through, and unless you do it, it will be
undone until God raises up another
who is willing to undertake it.

The great mistake of the Convention, was
in endorsing the Blair Bill. I cannot
see how men of your intelligence and
character could do it. The measure is
simply a ~~bill~~ ^{comprehension} bill of sale of the
colored people of the South to the white
people of that region. In my opinion
— and I think I have studied this
question more carefully than any
other man of any race, — ^{its adoption} it would
delay the real enfranchisement of
your ~~people~~ ^{people} half a century, if it did
not result in its complete elimina-
tion from our life. You see the
arguments to

- 1- A distinct recognition of the
violent and fraudulent acquir-
ition from which so many of the
race's evils spring.
- 2- It is a \$10,000,000 reward
to the white people of the South

for successful rebellion and der-
fiance of national law.

3 - It increases the power of the
whites who will entirely control
its disbursement and enhances
the direct dependence of the blacks
on the very men of whose op-
pressions they complain.

Within a year after its passage
the whole manhood of your race
^{would} be aroused to complain of its
injustice. Then the very best and
kindest sentiment of the North ^{would} ~~would~~
say with justifiable discouragement,
"Oh Pharo! we gave you what you wanted
and now you are whining about it!
There is no use of trying to do any-
thing with us for a "nigger" anyhow."
And for you and the leaders of
your race, you will be stopped by

your own thoughtless declarations.

I have attacked the thing very vigorously in "Factotum Prime," which will soon appear from the press of Cassell & Co., New York, but I am afraid your fellows have kicked over the pot of soup I have been trying to keep boiling for you so many years. A Northern man is excusable for being a fool upon these matters but a Neuro of intelligence who knows the facts, is responsible to his race, to civilization and to God for mistakes so grievous and so plain. Hunger - hunger for knowledge is a grievous thing but nobody approves

the course of a woman who sells
her virtue for bread or of the
Esau who trades his inheritance
for a mess of pottage. It is
better that no colored man of
this generation should learn to read
than that they should barter their
race's rights and lawfully granted
privileges for the permission of a
usurping power to ~~take~~ ^{stand} ~~at~~ ^{at}
the side of a spelling book. The
Nation owes this to your people without
putting it through the chamber of
Southern white permission.

That God may bless and
prosper you, give you wisdom
and patience in the performance
of this great work and take you hence
before the shadow of self-interest has
a chance to obscure the grandeur

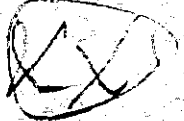
forgets himself in the grandeur of a noble purpose ever caught the highest noblest and most enduring fame. You are, fresh in the men of life, has some grand examples before its eyes to enforce this lesson.

~~Garrison~~, ~~Phillips~~, John Brown! Lincoln! ~~Phillips~~ Garrison! Phillips! ~~Lincoln~~ ^{not because of great admiration but} ~~Lincoln~~ names! I put John Brown ^{first}, ~~Lincoln~~ because he put self most completely under his feet! Say what we may, and though he was without knowledge or judgment, his ^{name} will live longest and shine brightest of all the names linked with the great transformation. Sometime your men will raise a fund — give a penny a piece, ^{each year for} ~~for~~ years a generation, perhaps, to ~~build~~ build on the very spot where his yallows stood a grey rough granite monument, no man's ear

impair which shall rise as im-
perishable as the pyramids beside
the bright columns and bear upon
its summit the names of John Brown
and his fellow-martyrs! They
were fools but they outshine the
world in self-disinterested
self-sacrifice. Will you link
your name with that tribute?

Why not start this inevitable
movement along with your work?
It would help you wonderfully
with your own people and especially
with the true-hearted white people
of the North. You know many
of the Weyman's best friends in the
North have "soured on him" as they
say, for his apparent lack of gentleness

of the opportunity which in his Providence
has been opened before you
feel, is my sincere prayer. All
that Garrison and Phillips and Sum-
ner and all these leaders of free thought
were to the civilization of forty years ago
— this, and much more, you have
a chance to be to that of today. But
neither this nor a tithe of this can
you be if you see only your own
individuality — your own fame, —
your own advantage — on the tide
of destiny that is surging toward
you. ~~As~~ a leader of popular
thought, a champion of liberty —
a candidate for earthly immortality,
the various words are espe-
cially true "He that seeketh his life
shall lose it." Only the man who

truth. I understand it; most people
do not; but such a movement
would touch every old Abolition-
ist's heart and enhance the moral
power of the League many-
fold. 

Pardon my plumes. It has
fallen to my lot to speak the truth
very plainly to those whom others
flattered. Personally, it has prob-
ably been to my detriment; but
I trust it has done some good.
I may ~~never~~ never derive advantage
from it — I do wish know that any
man has a right to expect that
duty will bring him advantage —
but I think I have helped the cause
of liberty and civilization which is
the cause of God, by ~~it~~ doing. I
shall watch your course with hope
pray for your success, and blame

tribute?

Why not start this inevitable movement along with your work?

It would help you wonderfully with your own people and especially with the true-hearted white people of the North. You know many of

the best friends of the Negro in the past, have "soured on him", as

They forget what he has given in his poverty for status to Lincoln.
they say, for his apparent lack of gratitude. I understand it: most

people do not; but such a movement would touch every old Abolitionist's heart and enhance the moral power of the League many fold.

Pardon my plainness. It has fallen to my lot to speak the truth very plainly to those whom others flattered. Personally, it has probably been to my detriment; but I trust it has done some good. I may never derive advantage from it, -- I do not know that any man has a right to expect that duty will bring him advantage, -- but I hope that I have helped the cause of liberty and civilization, which is the cause of God, by so doing. I shall watch your course with hope, pray for your success, and blame you relentlessly for failures.

Sincerely yours,

I would thank you for your course in the convention with regard to myself even if not a matter of far more importance to me than to me. It is a matter of no moment to me what might be done with my letter, but the colored people of the United States cannot find to allow its representative men to offer the almost unprecedented insult of returning the letter of a man who has published half a dozen volumes in advocacy of their rights, which have been read by ten millions of American citizens. Of course, the hope of the colored people depends on their winning the support and approval of a majority because majority rule. So it will not pay to kick a faithful champion because he is white. Such conduct would hearten people up to advocate your rights and your work will be made all the more difficult by such pitiable fools.

you relentlessly find failures

Personal growth

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