

Dear Sir: We have your letter of the 12th with enclosure. We see nothing in the world, in the clipping you send to induce the idea you say it gave; but if there were we are no more responsible for it than for your letter.

We do not see that you have any "right" to inquire as to our business, nor that we have any right to give you information as to the business of others. We informed you that Mr. Tompkins had no interest in ^{the work} ~~it~~ simply because we felt it ^{state a mere negation} ~~liberty~~ to do so. We advised that if you have any remedy at all under your contract, it is by injunction against Mr. Tompkins himself and such against his executors. So that while we beg to suggest that you have no "right to know" any thing from us, we leave you to the limit of courtesy in informing you that we do not act in any sense for Mr. Tompkins.

in publishing for the copyrighters on
any assignees of theirs.

~~Of course~~ If you choose to try con-
clusions with Mr. Toussaint and permit his
writing on disposing of his works, except
~~under~~ according to the terms of your
paper contract, that is your affair, not
ours, and we must ~~have~~ respectfully
decline to make ourselves parties
to it.

This, therefore eliminates ignorance as a political factor in those states. They are all controlled, ~~in all their relations~~ by the class which boasts of its "wealth and intelligence", which is consequently directly and admittedly responsible for their government or misgovernment.

To include the illiteracy of the South in estimates designed to justify the sentiment in favor of the disfranchisement of ignorance lest it should overwhelm the power of intelligence, is a proposition too absurd to be soberly considered. A people of seven millions, who in two states greatly outnumber the whites, and in two others are at least equal to them in number, yet are able to choose in all hardly seventy of their ^{fellows} ~~number~~ to any office whatever and not one to a position of any importance, however great the proportion of ignorance among them, cannot reasonably be held to exert any detrimental influence upon the political situation.

It is folly, therefore, to speak of the detrimental power of the ignorant masses *in the United States or in any state of the Union.*

In fact

6

~~"ignorant masses"~~. There are no "ignorant masses". The masses are intelligent. Even if it were otherwise, intelligence ought to be ashamed to prate about the power of ignorance. If knowledge is power, intelligence should be stronger, man for man, than ignorance; and if it does not strengthen we ought at least, to stop boasting of its possession. It is not the strength of ^{the} "ignorant masses", nor the viciousness of an ignorant minority, that shrouds the future of the Republic with apprehension and makes the Citizen-king a helpless captive from the first, but the general neglect of the more important political functions by the intelligent masses and an almost universally debauched conscience in regard to political affairs. We talk and act as if there were no such thing as an obligation to do right, nor any reason why we should ^{not} do wrong in political affairs.

But even if this bugbear of the ignorant and vicious masses ~~we~~ were a veritable fact, ^{their} exclusion from the rights of the citizen would be an act of such gross injustice as to be unfit to be considered