

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

BAY CITY, MICH.

January 6th 1879

My dear Sir,

I have been reading with deep interest your "Appeal to Caesar." It is the most clear and ably put exposition of the real problem I have met with. I want to thank you for the book. This may seem late to you but it proves that your work is neither spasmodic in its effects nor vain in its publication.

I heartily agree with you in your views. I am only a young man, born the second year of the war, untouched with the prejudices which of necessity cling more or less tenaciously to those who watched the Great Conflict engaged in its struggles. For a long time the Negro Problem has been taking hold of me, that as the most serious question before the American people. The Negro, uneducated, uneducated, yet holding in his hand the ballot is America's

unbound Jackson, loosed from his grinding, with
the pillars of this Republic in his grasp. Not alone
as a minister of the Gospel but as an American citizen,
as a Northern man as well, do I feel a strange &
growing interest in this problem. I feel that the
solution of it demands time. You and I may
not see the making of a single sheaf. But none
the less is the pressure of action laid upon us. You
have wrought nobly. - I have done nothing - but think
and hope. I know that before there can be a
harvest there must be not only a seed time - but
an actual sowing. I would scatter my little
handful of seeds as widely as possible. There
seems to be but one way out of the difficulty into
^{which} hasty legislation, inflated with success and san-
guine thro' ignorance, has placed us - The spell-
ing book & the Bible furnish the keynote toward
harmony. As I have said I am a young man
27 yrs of age - pastor of one of the leading churches

in the State. What I can do I cannot yet tell.
I have had a good measure of success as a lecturer.
Why would it not be a good plan to prepare as
pointed and impressive a lecture as I am able on
the Negro Question and deliver it wherever an open-
ing presents itself? I do not know of a better way
for me. I do not feel competent to write. You have
covered that ground. Can I not reach the people
thro' the platform? And may I ask you, if not
too great a task, for a list of authorities which
will "thoroughly furnish me for good work"? I do not
care to go into it unless I can thoroughly fill my-
self with it. If I am imposing on you pardon me,
and let the matter drop. I am writing, however, not
for my own sake but because of my interest in those
"twilight millions" who sit in darkness.

Yours most sincerely,
Durt Orest Howard.