

262 Ashland Boulevard
Chicago, Mar. 31/89.

Mr Editor:-

In the April
number of the Forum, p 148,
Mr 'Lourges' says that the negro
could be disfranchised by res-
toring the word "white" to the
constitutions of the Southern
States as a condition of citizenship.

It seems to me that this would
be in violation of the first
Clause of the 14th Amendment
Const. U.S.

Ivins before has a similar
statement appeared in the Forum,
once only a few numbers back
-made by Senator Morgan & thing-

and I wrote to the author ²
quoting the passage and the
Constitution but received
no reply.

I would be glad to learn on
what ground men so eminent
make statements so contradictory
of what seems to a man
ordinarily intelligent the plain
language of the Constitution.

Further, on p. 149 Mr. Bourge
does not seem to be aware that
the educational test would reduce
the representation of the South
^{in Congress} about one half according
to last clause of Sec 2. same
amendment.

Trivially Senator Morgan and
Mr. Bourge seem to be ignorant
of the fact that the 15th amend

ment is a complete bar
to any legal restriction of
the franchise on a color line.

If you will give me any
explanation of their - to me -
very surprising statements,
you will confer a great
favor upon one who wants
to understand the charter under
which we live.

Very Respectfully

J. F. Claffin.

P.S. Perhaps Mr Frazier will be kind
enough to explain his statement
to me if you refer this letter to
him.

J.F.C.