

My dear Nixon:

I have received your enclosure of the As Union Signal and the copy of a letter from a man who is disturbed about the Colored @ W. C. T. U. —

I cannot, consistently, make any comment upon it of the nature your correspondent seems to indicate, because it seems to me under the circumstances a wise thing to have been done by the Society.

The W. C. T. U. professes a single specific purpose, to wit, legislative prohibition of intoxicants; and its action is wise or unwise as it promotes or tends to promote or defeat that object. It disclaims all other objects. Accepting this as its ultimate purpose, it would have been the most inconceivable folly to have attempted anything in this direction in Louisiana without separate organizations.

To my mind, the case is altogether different from that of the churches or of the Grand Army. The church is God's temple and no man

has a right to ~~have~~ out on frozen out or
freeze out, the humblest believes.

The Grand Army is an organization of
men designed simply to perpetuate the memory
of a great conflict on nation, a great Con-
~~test~~-quest. It should be open to every man of
good character who stood under the
flag when it was tossed by the breath
of battle, and in my opinion a man
who will refuse to permit a ^{Federal return} ~~man~~ to
enter a post simply because he is black,
has not soul enough to ~~to~~ make ~~it~~ ~~other~~
~~than~~ ~~the~~ ~~most~~ ~~ridiculous~~ his salvation
any thing less than a ~~petrified~~ ~~waste~~ of
divine grace.

Into these two organizations, I claim,
the ~~color~~ ~~line~~ should never go. Outside
of ~~these~~ ^{these and business}, I think it unnecessary and unwise
at this time to discuss the question of
social intercourse between the races. If
the Church has got religion enough to ~~confront~~
to the race the matter will adjust itself in
the other relations. If it has not it is ~~wise~~
less to ~~attempt~~ ~~argue~~ the ~~matter~~. As you see,
I can't fill the details.