

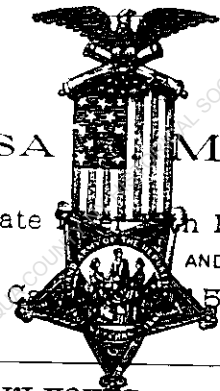
CHICKASAW BAYOU.
DEVIL'S BEND. ARKANSAS POST.

VICKSBURG.
FORT BLAKELY.

POST 5, CHICAGO.

ASA MUNN,

Late 1st Illinois Infantry,
AND
51st U. S. C. T.



RAYMOND.
MISSISSIPPI SPRINGS.

CHAMPION HILLS. JACKSON.
BLACK RIVER BRIDGE.

James

7/1/18

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013

15 South 2^d St. San Jose, Cal.

Feb. 5th 1890.

Judge Tourgee,

Dear Sir & Comrade:

Don't be scared at the newspaper clippings enclosed, they are not for you to read, for, you are already, no doubt, perfectly ^{posted} as to everything they contain; but I enclose them to show at a glance, what it is that has prompted me to pester you at this time. My card will partly introduce me to you, but, in addition, I will say that, for several years immediately succeeding the war, I followed the honorable profession of a Carpet-bagger, in the "Sunny South," and therefore know something of the peculiar methods of Democracy in those regions; and, if I mistake not, you know how that is, yourself.

Now, comrade, you are a busy man, and useful in your day and generation; while I am a pensioner, with crippled health, therefore, an idle man, and must not take up your valuable time; and so, I do not ask for an answer directly, but desire to ask some suggestive, rather than interrogative questions; and I mistake, if a "Bystander" stands by without "noting" in his memorandum-book, a theme-or-two for future "notes."

Now, I am honestly in search for information, in asking suggestively, what does the fourth Section, of the fourth Article, of the Constitution mean when it says - "The United States

shall guarantee to every State in the Union a republican form of government?" x x x. Now, is that not organic law, and does not the wording make it mandatory, and does not the mandate require the direct action of the Executive, by virtue of his oath of office, without any interference, or agency whatever, of Congress? And when wholesale murder, disfranchisement, and banishment of innocent citizens, are piled on top of one-another in monumental atrocity, and fiendishness, as in Mississippi, is there left in such States, a republican form of government? You and I, and every President of the United States know that that State is not an exception among the Southern States.

Was this Constitutional guarantee ever redeemed by any President? What ought the President to do in such a case?

I confess, that in my ignorant zeal in the direction of good government, I should consider it my duty, on being elected, and inaugurated as President of the United States, and as soon as I had sent my inaugural address to Congress, not waiting longer than until the next day, I should direct Secretary Blaine to address the Governor of Mississippi, something nearly as follows. —

"State Department, Washington D.C.

To his Excellency _____ Governor of Mississippi

Sir —

By the direction of the President of the United States, I have the honor to represent to your Excellency, that there are no official papers, either in the Office of the Law, or State Departments at Washington, to show that the perpetrators of the recent wholesale, and horrible murders and outrages, have been apprehended, indicted, tried, convicted, and had condign punishment meted out to them, as required by the laws of Mississippi. A longer neglect of this matter by your Excellency, will so greatly embarrass the President, as to compel interference by the United States Authorities, as required by Section four of Article four, of the Constitution.

I have the honor to be

Your Excellency's O^bd. Serv^t.

Blaine."

Now Comrade, please ask the "Bystander" to stand by me, or say why not.

There is one other thing, of a somewhat more personal nature, which the "Bystander" need not necessarily enter in his note-book.

I consider it high time that there be written a history of the "Underground Railroad." I think that, for the last ten years, I have wondered why the right person does not appear for the work.

Some few years ago, I was spending the winter in the piney-

woods of Florida; and, for weeks, had no white associates; and to relieve my loneliness, took to writing reminiscences of the war: and during that time, I thought so much about the above matter, that I ventured to write a letter to Mrs. Stowe, making the same suggestion that I now do to you. It then seemed to me that, of all American writers, the Author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was the one to undertake such a work. I never received any reply. But now, Mrs. Stowe's work is done; and some other pen must do such work. Why not you?

I know nothing of literature, and cannot understandingly criticise it; but my earnest belief is, that you are the one best equipped for the work. In your hands, it would give the world a great, and intensely interesting book. Why not?

With very great respect, & in F. C. & L.

Very truly yours,

Asa B. Munn.

P.S. — Am only visiting in Cal., shall go home about the 1st of Apr. to Mayfair P.O. Cook Co. Illinois.