

Dear Sir: I have neither strength nor inclination to engage in the controversy you invite me to enter upon and if I had, see no reason why I should select the Blower as the arena for it.

I expressed in the paragraph you quote, ^{simply} the feeling I always have at the usurpation of power, the violation of personal right or the attempt to take from the colored man the slight vestige of ~~right~~ ^{privilege} which American Christian civilization has permitted him nominally to enjoy. I suppose these things seemed to me all the more "horrible" because of ^{professed} ~~my~~ conviction that those concerned in it fully believed that they were doing God's service. And the plank referred to seemed to me the more infamous and degrading because it professed to be an appeal for justice and equity. The claim of superior motive and superior purity I think always makes such things seem worse than they otherwise would, just as the pretense of slavery by Christian men and women seems worse than by those who based their action on individual greed rather than on divine sanction.

they sacredly
 and that, ^{any} man who questioned their
 right was, ~~in that sense~~ ^{to} ~~not~~ ^{scrupled} ~~to~~ ^{is} ~~is~~
 for an ^{as if facts} ~~in~~ ^{of} God as well as a
 foe of man.

As is well-known I have never ~~publicly~~ ^{in any} ~~scrupled~~
ⁱⁿ ~~scrupled~~ to condemn in any party ^{what}
 I deemed wrong either in principle or meth-
 od, my own party no more than any other,
 being exempt from the prick of my pen. My
 views upon this ^{very} subject have been fully ex-
 pressed from the first. I have no objection to
 the W.C.T.U. or anybody else supporting the Pro-
 hibition Party, with or without any objections
 that may be attached to it. But I have an in-
 alienable right to denounce the action of
 delegates not authorized, to do what they
 profess to do, just as I would denounce the
 action of a Masonic Grand Lodge who
 should pass an edict pledging Masonry
 to the support of the Democratic Party, whether I were a Union
 or not.

So, too, after American/Christian civiliza-
 tion has robbed the American eyes of
all rights for two hundred and fifty
 years, I count it not only a right but

the highest and holiest of privileges to denounce as "infamous" the action of any body of men or women, who profess in the name of God and in the interest of humanity and good government, to deprive him of the little shred of privilege which it finally consented to allow him ~~and~~ nominally to enjoy. I was glad to note the organization of the Non-Partisan W.C.T.U., because I regarded it as a deserved and decorous protest against ^{personal} wrongs and believed that its outcome would be to teach the leaders of the parent body that good matters are not a quantity of wise methods. I still trust that it may help to teach the world the much needed lesson that the fact that you may be right does not authorize you to usurp my power, deprive me of undoubted right or asperse my motives. Sincerely yours