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WOODWARD AVE.

Detroit, *April 18 1890*

Hon A. N. Sargent:

Dear Sir

After reading yours of the 11th I have come to the conclusion that in sacrificing completeness for brevity in regard to the measures that the Federal government ought to undertake, in order to more fully outline the aim of the Afro-American League, so as to come within the limitations assigned me that I have made myself misunderstood on the position I have taken.

I did not mean that the educational qualification should be confined to the Afro-American, ~~or~~ to the South alone, or that it should be undertaken in the present condition of affairs.

Given Federal control of elections

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complete, such as you have outlined in the Interceder, a complete protection of the individual against the people in a state disposed to do him an injustice, the establishment of the dignity of a Federal office-holder, white or black, in every section, a complete system of education, in every state accessible to all, then let come the educational qualification. Then if the thirst for education exists, as it is said to, among Afro-Americans south, there will be no need to fear for the future. But only under such conditions did I mean to advocate it, and such a policy is consistent with that which I have advocated as an editor of the Plaindealer for nearly seven years.

Of course you understand the position of the Afro-American to be this: That under equal conditions and equal

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opportunities, he is willing to submit to the same tests that are applied to the rest of the people in the Republic, for this is the fight going on, for this it will continue until the desired end is gained and from which there is to be no retreat no coward promise. Such a position I can not conceive to be cowardly. I can not conceive it to be at variance with that liberty for which Brown offered himself up, and for which Lincoln and a host of martyrs died."

Understand me, I do not underestimate your own position. I think that you of all men, by a persistent advocacy of the rights of the oppressed have clearly established a right to be called a champion of liberty. I think that you are a man of strong opinions, perhaps impatient with those whose

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views you may understand to deviate from the strict lines of your own, but who like yourself are fighting for the same purpose. The differences rightly understood, may exist, as I hope it does in this instance, only in detail or method which surrenders no principle of justice or the personal liberty of the citizen, and whose foundations may rest upon the result of years of sober thought rather than an "apt iteration" of the fallacies afloat. Individually at least, the names of Tourgee and Cable will always be associated with those of Garrison, Phillips, Sumner, and that great army of men who have contended so bravely for humanity.

But why do I advocate a premium upon suffrage? Every week thousands of men are landed at Castle Garden. They are ignorant of the laws. The majority can neither

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read now write. From their ranks come the
adversaries of communism and anarchy.
From them comes the chief opposition to the
S. American as a laborer North. Made the vic-
tims of the governmental principles in other
countries they unite ~~to~~ this to introduce
conditions dangerous to ours. By them men
out of tune with the principles of the Repub-
lic are shoved into high places who violate
the trust of the people. They are the cohorts
of Democracy, upon whose ignorance, and by
evasion of the naturalization laws that party
chiefly depends in the North to secure con-
trol of our national government. In their ac-
tion these people are actuated neither by ap-
petite for services, principles, nor policy of government.

Under the conditions before stated in the
South, the educational qualifications would
defranchise hundreds of thousands of whites
as well as blacks, but setting a premium as

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it would upon suffrage it would act as a spur upon the colored people, and the advances that they have made would be tame compared with what would follow. It would also draw the lines as they should be, between the worthy and the unworthy. It can not be expected that the whole mass will be healed for years to come, for their moral nature has been too debased by centuries of wrong and bad example.

To be plain with you, I can not wonder that you are at times despondent. My own experience with the mass has not been encouraging, and many a time have I been tempted to give it up, and pursue my own way quietly. Perhaps I have sometimes thought too much is expected from a class of the people emerging so recently from such a condition, who are heaped unjustly together, not because of race

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for they have in them the blood of most of the European and African races (no two families possessing the same mixture) but because they have suffered from like causes.

I came home from Chicago in January enthusiastic. The aims of the League were such as I thought would cause a rush to its support. I am Michigan's vice president. (I have taken no part in politics, as an official am a bookkeeper for the firm ^{upon} whose paper I write) I expected a thousand members in Detroit by now. Well I meet doubt, contention, jealousy. What at? The aims of the League? No. What then? They think, despite its platform, a political scheme to boom some men into office. May not this distrust be engendered as well by the different blood that flows in their veins as to the political methods of the times? White races distrust each other, so do black. Here is a

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mixture of all. Is not blood asserting itself over a common interest? Of course we have a league here, will have a state League, that will be a medium for much good work, but much distrust, jealousy &c will have to be overcome.

But the very fact, sir, that there are men and women among Afro-Americans, who are honest, industrious, and striving to become worthy American citizens should however incite one to a further and continued effort. As long as men are in the depths, there is work to uplift them. As long as men are oppressed there must be champions of justice. The fortunate should encourage the unfortunate and appeal to their nobler natures. In no other way can one kind greater favor with the Divine Teacher.

Those that I have made my position plain to you.

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Upon lines, advised by you The Gain-
dealer will collect and publish matter
relating to the penal systems of the South.

As you to be one of the commissioners to attend
the "Negro" conference at A. S. in June.

I am rather eager to read and
review Laetolus' *Trinity*. May send
you one of my own before the year
is out

Yours for justice
Wm. H. Anderson

CHAUTAQUA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013