

Chicago, Ills., May 29th 1890
Judge Albion W. Bourge,
Wagville
New York.

My Dear Sir:

Your letter of May 28th was received by me on 25th instant. I have carefully noted its contents. And I assure you that it gave me great pleasure. I am glad, and, also greatly pleased, that you have read my letters in the New York Age, and also in the Plaindealer, and I am still gladder that my letter in the Plaindealer met your approval. I further assure you that it greatly encouraged me to write the same. I am very thankful to you for your encouragement. I suppose you remember the first letter I received from you; the advice you gave me in that letter shall never be forgotten. Before I say any more I

desire to state, to you, that you must understand, or at least I desire that you should know, that I love the white race, as well as I do the black race as my father was white and my mother black. And that I believe in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. But one thing that I dislike, yes hate; and that is injustice! That is why I write as I do, it is the injustice by the white race towards the race I am identified with that makes me so very bitter. Very few people in the North really believe what the South is endeavoring to do with the so called race problem. The South is doing everything possible to make the Negro a slave in every sense of the word. It is exerting every effort, to keep the masses of the colored people ignorant. They are willing in the South to treat an ignorant colored man as they do a favorite horse or any other pet animal, as long as the "nigger"

keeps in his "place"; but, just as soon as he assumes to exercise the right of a Free Man, he becomes instantly a bad "Nigger" and a "dangerous" slave and is given just so many whips to leave. Texas is the only Southern State that is educating the Colored Race. To give you an idea, I will state one instance which came under my personal observation, you remember, when the Fort Bend Co. trouble occurred in Texas, a year ago; the Governor sent 600 State Militia to Richmond, the Militia attempted to make certain young Colored Men leave the County, at least the town of Richmond, the old Colored Men left instantly when ordered by the Militia but when they ordered the young Men to leave, they replied that the Militiamen could have their

dead bodies, but that they would
 not go alive, so 70 young colored
 men each with a Winchester
 rifle, stood off for State militia
 Of course the militia would certainly
 have whipped very badly these 70
 brave young men but there was a
 dead certainty that not less
 than 50 white men would have
 been shot dead in their tracks
 and they well knew it. As these
 young men are still in Richmond
 doing well, and each one holds
 fast to their Winchester, yes
 several of them told me that the
 Winchester was preferable in the
 house hold to the Holy Bible!
 I talked with a large number
 of colored men and women on
 my recent visit South, I spent
 three months traveling among
 these people, and I can say
 that they are determined to
 fight. They say, there are just
 three things for them to do, leave
 the South, fight, or be made

Slaves. They are now, denied, every
single civil and political right
that a Freeman can justly
demand, further than the whites
choose to grant them. They say
they have waited long on the United
States Government to rectify the
evil; but that the government
is indifferent to their Grievances
is a fact too well known.
They have also waited upon the
"Superior" whites there to protect them
from outrages, insults and injuries,
but to no avail. They say, they have
the same right to live in the South
that the white man has, therefore
they will not leave. They further
say, that they are well aware
that the white man does not
desire to die, any more than
a colored man does. And
that their lives are just as sweet
to them as a white man's is to

him. Therefore they propose to make
 the white man respect the ~~power~~
 Winchester and revolver and
 stay on the South if they like.
 They are fully aware of all the
 consequences that will ^{surely} ~~surely~~
 befall them, if the present condition
 of affairs continues much longer,
 because all the Southern States are
 slowly but surely legislating away
 all the civil and political rights
 that a colored freeman can
 enjoy, but these State Governments
 are merely striving to the wind
 to save the ~~whirlwind~~ whirlwind.
 In fact they are digging their
 own graves. I heartily approve
 what you say about President
 J. B. Rice trying to get up
 a "nigger" show. We don't
 want any nigger show, we
 as American citizens are
 interested in every thing the
 white people are interested
 in. Separation will never do in
 our country, in civil & political affairs.

but social affairs are entirely a different thing. President Wilson should advise his people to enter into all kinds of business collectively as they are too poor to do so individually. The Michigan members of the American League, all all bright men, and I suppose that is one of the very ablest men the state has. As regard the National Election Bill, this is only one that can possibly fill the bill, and that must be just as you have previously stated, you of course understand this matter more thoroughly than I do, but I well know that no ~~other~~ business will do. The intelligent colored people are becoming aware that Mr Reed is a friend to justice and contrary to injustice, they also appreciate the fact ~~that~~ ^{the} truth cannot bulldoze him. I will write a letter in

a short time for publication in the
 New York Age, which will not be
 against Mr Reed's interest.
 You cannot imagine what a
 large number of Colored people
 reads your letters in the ~~Chicago~~
 Inter Ocean, on Saturdays, and
 also in the weekly issue.
 I have just finished reading
 your last book "Factious Blind"
 I like it so well that I intend
 to read it through again.
 I am glad to learn that we have
 so many white friends who
 demand that the Negro shall
 have a white man's chance.
 I am in luck, and intend to do all
 I can for the interest of my race
 as long as I am permitted to live
 of course I am not an educated
 man, but I think I know
 right from wrong.
 Wishing you long life and good
 health.

Yours truly

M. W. Caldwell

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