Kinsman Public Schools,

KINSMAN, OHIO.

JAS. J. H. HAMILTON, - Principal.

Nov. 14, 1890.

Hon. Albion W. Tourgée,
Mayville, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of the 6th inst. came duly to hand. I thank you very much for the pains you have taken to answer my inquiries. I have no personal interest in the matter, that is, no selfish interest — only the interest that every patriotic American ought to feel that the youth of our land shall not be fed what is worse than falsehood, - half truths and facts distorted so as to do more harm than falsehoods themselves can. The suppression of part of the truth

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may be worse than the statement of that which is entirely untrue. I wish to see our youth taught that patriotism is one of the highest attributes of the human character, and that the patriot will in all places and at all times defend the humblest in the exercise of his inalienable and constitutional rights; and that "an injury done to the humblest citizen is an insult to the whole State".

Many of our school text-books, in a "doughface" spirit which has perverted the "Let us have peace" of the great Commander into an echo of the old Copperhead cry of the same nature, seem so careful to avoid hurting the extremely sensitive feelings of that vague undefined and indefinable being, the "Southern Gentleman" [In the North

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We have only men that they can never speak of treason or rebels, but instead, we have "Confederates". We hear of "President Davis", and of the extreme bravery of the chivalrous Confederate soldiers, who are never defeated, but always outnumbered, and who at last give up the struggle only and solely because they had been overpowered by numbers. The United States soldier does not seem to amount to much. He is not "National", he is seldom even Union; he is generally so sectional as to be a northerner, and he seldom wins a victory unless the odds are greatly in his favor. On the other hand we hear a great deal a little later about "Carpet baggers" and

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"Scalawags" who of course are extremely obnoxious to the aforesaid Ex-Rebels. I beg pardon, I mean the survivors of the "Lost Cause". J. But there is no mincing of terms now. As I lately informed a publisher and author, one would think that all the penitentiaries in the north had been thrown open on condition that the inmates go South and seize the governments of the southern states. The ignorance of the Negro voter is held up to scorn, as though he were to blame for it. It is never mentioned that in Southern states it was a penal offence to teach a negro. The Ku Klux outrages are passed over in silence or in a few words, sometimes even excused as the act of a brave and outraged people, in self defence. — The plunderers of defeated rebels who had violated their oaths to support and

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defend the Constitution of the United States, is accepted by some of these writers without question ~~as~~ in opposition to men of far higher honor who had given their life blood to preserve the Nation. These men forget, or seem to do so, that the calling of ugly names is not argument, though it is oftentimes a powerful weapon in exciting popular prejudice.

For my part, I am tired of this, and when one of the leading Boston Publishing houses sent me a new history a few months ago, and asked my opinion of it, I expressed it very candidly stating that while in General the book is one of the very best, yet in some

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respects it is anything but par-
tial and far from correct. I
mail you my copy of the book,
and mark some of the passages
that to me are objectionable.

You will notice the definition of
"Carpet-baggers" on page 328, and
the text in section 862, same page.
I criticised this —

1. As being unfair in that it holds
up to scorn the ignorance of the ne-
gro, although it were his fault,
and does not state the fact dam-
ning to the White race that in the
South it had been a penal of-
fence to teach a negro even the
letters of the alphabet.

2. That the "Carpet-baggers" in-
stead of being such unprin-
cipled characters as there
described, were in reality rep-
resentatives of the best life
of the north and that very
many of them had gone South

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as officers sent by the government. That in general they were talented, honest, brave, and often heroic. That I had known a number of them personally, and more by reputation and that they had neither hoofs, claws, nor horns; but were men of whom any community might justly be proud.

3. That the definition of "Carpet-bagger" as hereto given is incorrect — that the term was applied to all white men of northern birth who took part in affairs of the South, last Republican, without regard to responsibility, Etc; and that all White men of Southern birth who acted with the Republicans were termed "Scalawags", even from Longstreet to the meanest "Cracker".

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4. That by this definition (page 328) the author distorts the truth, or would deliberately brand a whole class of men as criminals.

5. That even if all that is alleged here were true, these crimes are nothing compared with the damnable cruelties and crimes inflicts by the "Ku Klux" and the "Black Codes", and the infamous Election methods in the South which are passed over in Silence, or told in a half-apologizing line or two. I asserted that if the "Carpet-bag" and "Nigger" legislatures had done nothing else, their single act in repealing the black Code was alone sufficient to win for them the thanks of the civilized world.

I referred the Author and Publishers to the Constitutional Convention of Mississippi, and sent them one of the Speeches delivered there on the franchise and the Election methods

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of the South.

6. I challenged the impartiality of the account of the electoral contest of 1876-7, claiming that it presented only one side of the case, making no mention of the fact that the Republicans charged intimidation, the use of tissue ballots etc., a charge which the Southern Democrats do not themselves deny any longer.

In reference to the election contest of 1876-7 I mentioned as a fact that D. C. (Hyde Commissioner, Virginia) had offered 100000 men to seat T. Tilden by force and that Henry Watterson claimed that Kentucky would furnish the same number, were matters of common knowledge at the time, and I asserted that there was a general conspiracy of the Democrats

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Extending through the north as well as South, to seat Tilden, and said that Democratic clubs in the North were drilled and armed as military, and were held in readiness to proceed to Washington, seize the Government and seat Tilden.

I stated this (relative to the 7th) as occurring in a conversation of a personal friend of mine, who had risen to the rank of Brig. Gen. in the War but who had turned Democrat later, and who had told me that he had had command of these would be insurgents in a certain county in mind. He expressed it as his opinion that the government was in greater danger then than at anytime during the Civil War. He said the plot was very extensive, expressed surprise that no one had yet written a history of it, and when asked why it was not carried

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out, replied "We were afraid of Old Grant."

These are the principal points of criticism. The publishers of course defend their book, and refer to the definition of "carpet bagger" in the Century Dictionary as agreeing with them. To this I reply that the definition of scholars cannot change the application of the term (as far as the past is concerned) from that in which it was used when first introduced into the language. They answer that the author has a right to define his terms and that the text and definition must go together. My answer to this is that, unfortunately for the author, in this case he gives his definition as being

applied by some one else, and consequently he must abide by the meaning as used by those others. Otherwise he falsifies the record.

I had before asked for proof that any "northern politician, with no baggage or property but a carpet bag had gone to the South for the purpose of obtaining office and plunder." This I claimed was a fair question. In reply instead of furnishing such evidence, the publishers said, that if there were no such persons" the author was, of course in ERROR, for "he evidently thinks there were many of that stripe."

To illustrate more fully how general is the attempt made to throw discredit upon Northerners and to defend Southerners, note these two facts. On opposite pages in the Supplement

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of Webster's Dictionary you will find defined "bulldose" and "carpet-bagger." the latter is said to be "a term of contempt applies to a northern settler in the southern part of the United States, after the close of the Civil War (1865), seeking only private gain or political advancement." The former is said to have been "used originally of the alleged intimidation of negro voters in Louisiana." You see the one is stated as a fact! There is evidently an attempt to discredit the other and to throw a doubt upon it by speaking of it as merely "alleged".

There is enough Rebel or "Copperhead" spirit in the North as it is without its being fostered in our schools. I believe that no state

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will rank) my native State (Penna.) in patriotism. Yet in Penna. within the last decade I have repeatedly heard Lincoln and Stanton cursed publicly as the blackest hearted traitors and villains that ever lived; and "Jeff. Davis" lauded as the purest patriot of the age. And I could name more counties than one in which a majority of the people still think that the foulest ~~Traitor~~ epithet that can be applied to a man is "Abolitionist."

I have read most of your books on the "Southern Question," including the Eclipse of Modern Literature. The "Fool's Errand" I have read several times, and "The Invisible Empire" twice. But when I wrote you I did not have my "Invisible Empire" here, but have since sent for it and received it from my home in Easton, Pa. (You see I am so much of a "Carpetbagger" myself that I spend only the school year here, and have not brought even

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half my library with me.)

I do not wish to be unjust to Mr. Montgomery or his book, but I cannot help but think that I am right, for am I led to my view by the remains of "War feeling" for I was born after the battle of Gettysburg, and my only recollection of the Civil War is of hearing my mother singing patriotic songs.

I must ask your pardon for again imposing so long a letter upon you, and thank you again most heartily for the trouble you took to answer my former questions.

Yours very respectfully,
Jas. A. Hamilton.

P.S. Can you tell me where I can obtain the pamphlet by Hon. Henry C. Dibble, mentioned on page 494.

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Of the Invincible Empire

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