

Franklin D. J.

1

Dear friends,  
I have the honor to acknowledge  
the receipt of your letter of the 10th  
inst. and in reply to inform you  
that the same has been forwarded  
to the Board of Directors of the  
American Union, who have  
unanimously, promising to give  
the right hand of fellowship  
to all that come from any State  
or section of the Union.  
And then you receive your  
work with a bitter condemna-  
tion of the Lodge bill, a bill  
simply to secure to those who  
will accept your invitation  
and those already there, the  
most sacred privilege of an

Page 2

American citizen, the privilege  
of casting one free untrammelled  
ballot, and having it fairly  
counted. We have always been  
aware that the people of the  
South are very prolific in promises  
in point of fact there are but two  
things in which they excel their  
propensity to promise, and those  
are, threats, and, deed of bloodshed.  
In view of all the fact we hardly  
know how to construe your mani-  
-festo. if you meant it as a piece  
bitter irony, it is all right, but  
if you were in sober earnest  
you must have thought as the  
old lady did of the book agent -  
- one of us is a fool. How do  
you expect the friends and

Page 3

neighbors of those Yankee boys  
murdered at Covington, how  
do you expect us to reconcile  
your promises with your own  
eyes. Grady's declaration, that  
more Northern men had left  
the South since the war than  
had went into it. How do  
you expect us to reconcile it  
with General Sheridan's  
official report when in com-  
mand of the department of the  
Gulf at New Orleans, that  
there had been 20,000 murders  
for political reasons since the  
war, 20,000 men murdered, because  
would note as their conscience  
dictated

Page 4

not as Southern rebels dictated

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013