

POST OFFICE.

M. F. FRITZ,
POSTMASTER.

Lexington, (Miss. March 29th 1892
(Holmes County.)

Mrs. A. W. Fourcee

Mayville

Chautauque Co N. Y.

Dear Sir, Your kind letter of the 12th inst. came to hand some days ago and, would have been answered before now but sickness prevented. As a reader of the Inter Ocean, I have on many occasions admired your vivid and terse presentation of facts, as only those know them to exist, who have lived for any length of time, south of Mason and Dixon's line since the close of the war. As one of those confiding simbletons, who, after serving from March 1861 for more than 38 months in the 6th C. V. I. and bearing no malice toward any one I was led to believe that the war was over, ^{and} I came south to cast my lot with those, whom I had met on the fields of Battle, it is barely necessary to tell you, that the experience of the last twenty two years has convinced me of the error of my judgement. Although somewhat disfigured in fortune, I am still in the ring and intend to be, as long as I am able to contribute to a cause, to which in the past I have devoted the

best years of my life. Acting upon the idea acquired
 by experience, that unfortunately the majority of
 men, can best be led by such means as will
 appeal to their own selfish natures, I have en-
 deavored to show, by an investigation of our schools
 that the poor whites, would be the beneficiaries of
 a more honest and equitable administration of
 our public schools, touching as lightly as possible
 and, then only incidentally upon the wrongs com-
 mitted upon the colored men, in order to avoid
 as much as possible open hostility on the part of
 the poor whites and, if ^{agging} possible, to gain their con-
 fidence and good will. without which reform
 is very near impossible, because it is this class among
 our population, that is holding unconsciously the
 balance of power. That I have succeeded in both,
 to an extent far beyond my expectations, is evinced
 by the expressions of good will, which I have received
 from various parts of the county and state, as also by
 the violent attacks of the Holmes Co. Bulletin, a
 copy of which, I enclose (this paper while sailing under
 the banner of the Alliance, is really a Democratic
 Machine Organ). The experience of the past,
 points out to me, but two feasible methods, through
 which it is possible to obtain in the near future
 a recognition of equal rights. The one by Federal

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control of elections, ^{but Holmes County} which may after all prove to be an ignis fatuus, or by a method that will convince the poor whites of the south, that their own interest demands that justice be done to the blackman, I consider the later method by far the safest and most efficient, and while I agree, that in the past, it has appeared at times as a hopeless task, I believe it has been so, because of the means adopted to obtain the end desired.

Never the less the efforts of the Alliance have awakened a wonderful spirit of enquiry among the poor whites of the south, which if judiciously used, will bring golden fruit and that, in a surprisingly short time.

This is the line of policy, which I have undertaken to pursue and, the enclosed address to the "People of Holmes County", will give you an idea as to the manner, in which it is proposed to carry out this plan. If through the testimonia of their own Officers we can show up the villainies, that have been perpetrated, in order to defraud not alone the blackman, but also to deceive the poor white devils, whom they used as their tools, I am satisfied from the effect, that the in-

investigation of our Schools has had, upon all classes in our County, great good will result.

I have thus at length described to you my plan of operations, because I believe, that I am in a position to accomplish some good and may be of service to further the aims of the N. C. R. A. (which I consider my own) in this county in more than one way, but I am now met with an obstacle, which dreads to paralyze my very efforts, a great effort is being made by the Democratic Machine, to suppress and hinder every effort to collect contributions, which are necessary to pay the already large printing bills. The office I hold is a small one and barely sufficient to support my family, ^{and} my means are limited, so far I have paid several hundred dollars out of my own pocket, and owe now \$100.00 for printing the "Administration of the Public Schools" with no means in sight with which to pay, on account of the efforts of the opposition supported by one R. A. Simmons a colored school-teacher, who participated as a willing partner of the late County Supt. in the school frauds of our county and is doing now all he can to arouse the prejudices of the uninformed. Small as

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the needed aid is, it appears at present, situated as I am, to be impossible to raise it here, for other reasons besides the one given above, ^{and} which it would take too long to explain in this letter. I will however state that no charge is made for any labor that may be involved, it is only the cost of printing and postage for which the contributions as required, now if you can cite me to any one or more, who would be likely to take enough interest in this matter, and assist me in defraying these expenses, you will assist very much our cause in common. enclosed I send you a few names, my own included as applicants for membership in the N. C. R. A. I also refer you to Major W. H. Gibbs. Sec'y Republican State Ex. Com. and Postmaster at Jackson Miss. Hon. H. C. Niles Judge of U. S. Court post office address Kosciusko Miss. Mrs. H. Kernaghan Register of Deeds Jackson Miss. as to who I am
Yours truly
M. E. Fritz

TO THE PEOPLE OF HOLMES COUNTY.

At a Meeting of the Republican Executive Committee, it Was Resolved
To Issue the Following Address:

Whereas, We believe that the best interest of a people can only be advanced by a condition in which public opinion will insure to the humblest citizen the peaceful enjoyment of every right which, by the very fact of his existence, he is entitled to enjoy, and as this condition can only be obtained by a thorough knowledge and observance of the laws of morality and right by all citizens, and

Whereas, The violent partisan agitations of the past have been caused largely through prejudices and want of information upon the principles involved and under discussion, and have been a great obstacle to the material progress of this county, and,

Whereas, We believe that it is the duty of the state, as a paramount condition of good government, to provide the necessary instruction that will enable all of its people to perform their duties as citizens and men; therefore, for the purpose to enable the laboring people of this county to obtain such knowledge as is necessary for the maintenance of their rights, and that harmony and peace may prevail between all of our citizens,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we pledge the united effort of the Republican

party in Holmes county in the interest of an economic, honest and efficient administration of our public affairs, and to a more honest and efficient system of public schools, that will insure to every child the benefit of a common school education.

RESOLVED further, That in order to carry the above resolution into effect, and for the purpose of enlisting the co-operation of all good citizens in the above cause, the chairman of this committee is hereby authorized to appoint a committee of five—to be composed of the chairman and secretary of the Republican county executive committee and three from the county at large—to be known as the committee on education. That the committee so appointed recommend to the trustees of every school in the county that they proceed to solicit a donation of five cents from every voter and patron in the county, to be used by the educational committee for the purchase and distribution of such literature as will advance the cause of education in this county. Said donation to be collected and accounted for as may hereafter be determined by the committee on education.

M. E. FRITZ,

E. C. COLE, Sec'y. Chairman.