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Omaha Neb. April 5 1882

Dear Mr. Strong.

Pear sir This morning I thought I would write and tell you of the hope I have gained through your kindness in endeavoring to get my letter through to the president. I can not find words in common language to express my thankful ness to you. I received a reply from him yesterday morning. It was not ~~that~~ <sup>what</sup> now need to work out but will work so that aint he says I received your letter in which you very justly complain of the cruages to which the colored people of this country are in some localities and no often subjected. I do not need to assure

you that if it lay in my power to bring  
to prompt punishment every violator  
of the rights of any citizen Black or White  
however humble it would be done sharply  
and surely and severely, Lynching  
is a fearful reproach to our laws  
and to our courts and to our civilization  
but my dear madam as President  
the constitution and the laws limit  
my powers and to such cases as those  
to which you refer these powers do not  
extend I have not failed at any time  
in any part of this country when  
opportunity offered to lift my protest  
against these things, and to insist  
that the rights of men and the safety  
of our communities could only be  
found in obedience to the law and in

their just and equal administration  
without distinction of race or condition

very respectfully yours

Benj Harrison

There is the important part of his  
letter he thinks it is not in his power  
to protect ~~the~~ no. Why were not slaves  
protected by the law the law has nothing  
to do with the punishment of the colored  
people if we was only punished by the  
law according to the citizens punishment  
we would be satisfied but the cruel harder  
makes the laws to soot their own feeling  
and we are punished thereby now if the  
head of this government can not control  
the laws then we have no laws so  
we have got to protect our selves for  
the but I would like to send in one

#4

more pelle which if you will add main  
I may get it ready any way if not take  
it red I will have it ready not many  
days hence I hope you will not let me  
importune you of these things boses your  
trouble in rendering your time as I know  
you have all redy done a good many men's  
work in the cause of fallen humanity but  
a faithful Worker is worthy of his reward  
we allways get pay for a good reward  
may god's blessings be praised

Yours H. Davis

2517 parker st