

St. Joseph, Missouri. May 24th 1892.

Judge Albion W. Tourgee,

Mayville New York,

My Dear Sir:-

Yours 20th here, I had seen the magnificent presentation to our General Conference; we can expect great sympathy, support, and upholding there.

I think you are perhaps right about waiting the action of the Minneapolis Convention, but your argument relative to the senate, and its meribund condition is the strongest on its line favoring my suggestion that could be made, and while that suggestion implied a caucus determination, that by no means ^{mak} the bounds of my purpose with these harlequins. I am inclined to the opinion that it would be wise for us to fully open our eyes in search for the causes of the wide-spread unrest everywhere, apparent and which evidenced itself at the polls so unmisstakeably in 1890, speaking the drifting tendency, and disolution as well as the dissatisfaction of the people with the Republican party, and thier trimmers; and this lesson we understand, for it had to do with, for, and under the very question we are are corresponding over; and we upon our consciences cannot stand idly by while the disolution is going on, and by the 'folded arm and at rest policy' thereby express the hope that party for shams sake will come out all right, when it is due that we stand firmly in sun and storm for that which is true and just, leaving all the questions of mere advantage to those interested in such trash; ner can we ask support, or get it either from men of convictions for such a party or policy unless we become a part of

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wrongful misleading our intelligence should forbid, and our honor repudiate. The trouble is and was, that in 1874 & 5 our party left the path of wisdom, and overrode and defeated the recommendations of Gen'l Grant and relegated the theory of majority government, and the power to protect the only people who welcomed our soldiery in 1861 as they marched south, and turned that people over into the hands of their former masters to a bondage of ignorance equal to the bondage of servitude, there deserting them.

Personally I cannot say what I may do, I am in no sense satisfied with Harrison, for I believe that a sincere Administration that is not strong enough to uphold and carry through a body of its own party in an emergency a just measure like that of the Federal's election law had best to give place to any comer, for the truth is since Grant we have had nothing but bargaining commissions to effect sales of Human Rights, by every executive chosen or accidentally coming into power.

Your idea of getting ready a club is also a good one, for I think it implies a 'physical club' which better meets the emergency for I say unto thee that there must go alarm to every Republican who have deserted the truth, by a menace threatening every hold they have upon power, as the only fulcrum to get what is due from them, and yet I say it with lament that I dislike to separate from those associates in all the labors of a life time, yet my conscience forbids that I longer remain in a compromising situation toward those people who have come to us out of the bondage of three hundred years of unrequited toil and say to them TRUST, when I know that they have no ground upon wh-

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ich to trust the party of reputed liberty, for it is surely going to peices and ought to do so, when it ceases to stand for the weak against the strong, for the right as against the wrong, and for one I will not mislead them, and will not hope against reason as we now have to do.

A resolution at Minneapolis is simple mockery and the Senate will so hold it, and to speak for or in the campaign upon it or promising anything under it after the Senate's action will only be weakness, tending to increased weakness, and no man long in party work or harness misunderstands that upon either side, for you know the record would stop both your own speech and pen.

If in God's providence Harrison is defeated at Minneapolis and a man like Sherman nominated there could be some hope for we should have then an old time Executive, but there is no hope with a predestinated fatalist like Harrison.

I again express my conviction that we must move independantly and courageously, and that we should have a National Committee through which to formulate purposes, upon matured plans, following the pathway of necessity, under light from on High, with a strong, united, proclaimed, and organized head (that yours) or in your hands, of course our organization in the emergency upon us has to come from aloft rather than ~~below~~ ^{beneath}, but it need not be the less powerful and influential.

I think I have expressed my mind.

Very Sincerely Yours,

J. B. Black

*Will you be at Minneapolis.
I want to see you, and shall be there.*

Two parties exist, Parties should always exist in a Government of majorities, and to support and strengthen the party which most nearly holds his views is among the most laudible, meritorious acts of an American citizen; and this whether he be in official or in private station. Two parties contend for the management of National affairs, one or the other of these two contestants is sure to manage the Nations concerns for some time to come. The question is, which of the two is safer and wiser to trust? It is not a question of candidates. A candidate, if he be an honest, genuine man, will not seek and accept a party nomination to the Presidency, Vice-Presidency, or to congress, and after he is elected become a law unto himself. Few things are more despicable than first to secure elevation at the hands of a party, and then, in the hope of winning pretentious non-partisan applause, to effect superior sanctity, and meanly imply that those whose support and confidence were eagerly and differentially sought are wanting in purity, patriotism, or some other title to respect. The higher obligations among men are not set down in ~~Their writings or signatures, but in their hearts, and their good faith~~ in writing and signed and sealed—they reside in honor and good faith.

The fidelity of a nominee belongs to this exalted class, and therefore a candidate of a party, is but the exponent of a party."

The Republican party have tried Harrison, and he does not belong to this order of men. Let us try to find such an one.