Personal.

C. Spalding, Manager Atlanta Times

Dear Sir: I have yours of June 6th. Absence has prevented an earlier reply.

I am much interested by your generalizations though, like most generalizations, they are somewhat defective. The colored man is not equal before the law with the white man of Georgia, because the law is not enforced to secure his rights or redress his wrongs. He is killed with practical impunity from punishment. This deprives him of the right of self-defense. His home and family are unprotected. What white rascal or murderer of a colored woman is punished? This lack of security makes him a dependent in all things. Again, his is not offered the inducement that attaches to the white man. At the best he can be only a hopeless and pretentious inferior

This is not consistent either with our Christianity or our civilization.

The colored man has little responsibility for his present condition. The obligation resting on his former master, was to make him fit for freedom, to give him a fair education, to work for him a part of his earnings and bring him into the land of Promise clothed and ready for citizenship. It was the duty of the Church to teach him Christianity by example as well as precept. It was the duty of the country to have protected his life and secured his liberty and rights by gradual operation of common-sense and Chris-

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tian laws.

None of these things were done. God had to take other means. The colored man was not wholly prepared for citizenship, yet he has been the most peaceable and easily governed freedman ever known. He is just awakening to a sense of his wrongs. ~~How is he to be kept~~ What can be done to prevent trouble and induce him to make the best of his opportunities? The first pre-requisite is justice. He must be made to feel that he is treated with even-handed justice. How shall this be done? The most important thing

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is that he be treated with justice; the next that he should know that ~~the last~~ he can rely upon the law to secure his rights and protect redress his wrongs. How? In any one of a thousand ways. Suppose the leading white men of one of your counties would join with leading colored men to protect the rights of the weak without regard to color. But you say this is impossible to effect. I fear it is, but when men say nothing can be done, this simple

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reinedy stares them in the face.

But what other one can I suggest? There is no other. The only remedy for injustice is justice and the people who will not grant it must suffer for their own neglect. The colored man might have been made peaceful, contented industrious and would have been if after liberation he had been treated as a man. Being treated as an inferior and a brute has brought discouragement. A very little justice would have made him happy; already injustice has made him suspicious: Continued a little longer it will

make him desperate. Where will the blame lie? Not with him.

I do not agree with your classification. I have studied the colored population of the South at first hand in almost every section of the South for twenty-seven years. I think I understand their condition and capacity. The former is the most difficult the world ever knew: the latter is quite up to the average of the poor whites who stood on a level with them in intelligence and above them in opportunity twenty seven years ago. The race which keeps pace with its Anglo-Saxon equivalent in intelligence, enterprise and accumu-

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lation, for a quarter of a century from the cradle of liberty, has nothing to fear. It may have to furnish a good many martyrs; they are generally necessary, but they will come out all right in the end.

It would be useless for me to accept your invitation even if I could. Such things are always settled by strife; either in the political arena or by the literal shedding of blood. How this will end I do not know but the National Citizens' Rights' Association believes that every citizen

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try peace and justice first: afterwards one cannot tell what to hope for should they fail as they are likely to. God save our land and nation from further crime and oppression of the weak, but if that cannot be God grant that justice may come whatever may suffer.

Yours truly

William Lounger

One thing is certain: No evil was ever cured by letting it alone or apologizing for its existence nor was any people's right ever obtained by abandoning the claim of justice and asking favor instead.

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