

Vienna, Ill. August 1, 1892.

Judge Albion W. Tourgee.

Dear Sir:

I am a constant reader of the Inter Ocean, and have been carefully reading your "By standers notes" for a long time, and greatly admire your doctrine and your logic, and recognize it as true and genuine republicanism of the original stamp.

But I see nothing in the writings or the arguments of any of the present leaders of the party that harmonizes with your ideas of the rights of citizenship. The speakers whose speeches I have read, and the papers I read, say nothing about it.

But on the contrary, they all utterly repudiate any idea or intention of passing a "force bill" or any other legislation towards securing to the colored people of the south, or any other people the rights guaranteed by the constitution.

I recently talked with a man who was sufficiently enthusiastic for B. F. to go to the Minneapolis convention at his own expense, although not a delegate; and he was talking against the theory of negro domination in the south, and the idea of passing any law on the subject, and I called his attention to the clause in the platform on the subject, and his reply was that it was well enough to put in the clause in order to catch votes in the north; and in order to scare the southern democrats into voting their own ticket, to keep them from voting the ticket of the Peoples party.

The present canvass by the republican party seems to be moving entirely upon the theory that the tariff is the only question worthy of attention. Protection was last inaugurated about 30 years ago, and it seems to me that it has become the settled policy of the country. All the republicans are for it, and I am pretty well satisfied from the course of the last house of representatives that over half the democrats are for it.

Then why make a canvass entirely on the tariff? A school boy, after he has once thoroughly learned the multiplication table, does not wish to hear that and nothing else dinned into his ears all the time; it tends to "make him tired". So this everlasting ding dong by republicans on the tariff makes many of the people tired. I am tired of it, and would like to hear something new. The republican party claims to be the great party of progress and reform; yet when making up its last platform at Minneapolis it could find but one little thing or idea upon which to declare for reform— one cent postage.

The rest of the platform is the same old song of 20 or more years, and on matters already settled and on the statute books of the country. The party solicits and accepts the aid of the women of the country in the political canvass; but never once offers any reform in the laws with regard to womens rights to the elective franchise, which is extremely ungallant.

Thousands of women are fully as well qualified for seats in the U. S. Senate as any of the men who occupy them, yet they are not allowed even to become candidates. We are continually violating that clause in the declaration of independence which declares that the just power to Govern is derived from the consent of the Governed. When did women ever in this country have the opportunity to give their consent to our Governing power?

The G. O. P. is gradually drifting in another direction which if not soon checked will become dangerous to liberty.

In this state at the last state convention, at the solicitation of the German Lutheran Church, they adopted a resolution promising to repeal the compulsory school law which had prior to that time been adopted by the legislature, and the recent amendment by congress of the Worlds fair appropriation bill requiring the closing of that institution on Sunday to please religious fanatics; and the oft repeated appropriation of public funds for sectarian schools among the indians, of which fund the church of Rome has been getting more than all the others.

Now, I am a republican, and have been ever since the rebels fired upon Fort Sumpter in April 1861, and was one of the boys who wore the blue, and marched with Grant to the south, and have been suffering for over thirty years from the effects of a gunshot wound received in line of duty in defence of my country and my liberty and yours; but I am utterly disgusted with the present management and leadership of the party, on account of the matters above stated, and for others not stated, and this year I intend to vote for the candidates of the Peoples party. Respectfully your friend

John S. Crum.

I herewith inclose you some stamps to aid you in the good cause in which you are so diligently laboring. J. S. C.