

AMERICA FOR AMERICANS.

JOHN W. CUSTER,

LECTURER.

Equal Political Rights,
Regardless of Race, Sex,
Partisan Ties, or
Religious Creed.

One Country,
One Nationality,
One Flag and
One Language.

BUT NOT ONE SALOON.

(Carbondale, Ill.,

Feb 25- 1893

Hon. A. W. Burge
Mayville N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I wish to congratulate you upon your manly, persistent and patriotic protest, against the inhuman, and unpatriotic practices of white barbarians in the South.

I am, and for many years have been doing what I could to beat back the storm of hatred and injustice, now culminating in such cannibalistic demonstrations as was witnessed at Paris Feb. 1, 93.

I was a Republican all of my political life, working and voting with that party, until last year, I cast my lot with the National Prohibition party.

What of the future?

Yours for the glory
of American manhood and womanhood
John W. Custer



JOHN W. GUSTER,
LECTURER,
CARBONDALE,
ILLINOIS.

ALBION, MICH., April 4th, 1887.

Mr. John W. Custer, of Illinois, has been doing campaign work under the auspices of this State Committee in behalf of our Constitutional Amendment. I have received the most hearty endorsement of his work from the various points where he has spoken, and rejoice in the very efficient service he has rendered our cause.

SAMUEL DICKIE, *Chairman.*

PHILADELPHIA, PA., July 18, 1889.

Hon. John W. Custer was employed in the Pennsylvania Amendment campaign for three months as a speaker. We found him faithful, prompt and efficient. His speeches were sensible, convincing and eloquent—thrilling his auditors, and calculated to do good. I recommend him without reservation for campaign work.

HENRY W. PALMER,
Chairman State Com.

Made his auditors thrill with his eloquence.—*Danville, Ill., Times.*

Mr. Custer gets right into the heart of his subject and carries his hearers forward like magic.—*Paris, Ill., Gazette.*

The opposition melted before his logic and overpowering eloquence and gave rounds of applause during the entire speech. It was a master effort.—*Carthage, Tenn., Journal.*

His addresses both nights were masterly, in many respects grand, the whole replete with sound logic, earnest eloquence and humorous illustrations.—*Paris, Tenn., Journal.*

The M. E. church aisles and entry were filled to overflowing Sunday evening to hear Hon. John W. Custer, on Prohibition. Hundreds were turned away, unable to even get in the entry. Mr. Custer is a powerful speaker.—*Grinnell, Iowa, Herald.*

Champaign, Ills., Nov. 17, 1892.

I take great pleasure in recommending Hon. John W. Custer for his efficient and able services in behalf of the Prohibition Party of Illinois, in the campaign of 1892. I had the pleasure of listening to one of his addresses, and my personal testimony of the value of his services is hereby given, in addition to his general record as an effective campaigner.

GEO. W. GERE,
Chairman State Prohibition Com.

Lincoln, Neb., April 2, 1890.

Hon. John W. Custer has been engaged in the Temperance work in Nebraska for the last three months. Col. Custer is a forcible, convincing and eloquent speaker. His presentations of the Prohibition question are logical and argumentative. We take great pleasure in testifying to his merits and worth as a gentleman, as a good organizer and a fine speaker.

C. A. ATKINSON,
Pres. Nebraska Prohibition Amendment League.

Nashville, Tenn., July 21, 1887.

Hon. John W. Custer, of Illinois, is an efficient worker in the cause of Constitutional Prohibition. He has done most excellent work for the W. C. T. U. in several counties of this State; and now, under the auspices of the State Amendment Committee, goes to several counties in west Tennessee. The friends of Prohibition will find Col. Custer a tower of strength in this great cause.

By order of the State Executive Committee.

T. C. BLAKE, *Secretary.*

WHITHER ARE WE DRIFTING?

Or What of the Negro's Future.

EDITOR HUBBARD:--Events crowd upon us in rapid succession and in such bewildering and appalling reality and so startling in their character, that we cry out, "What next, and whither are we drifting?" On Feb. 1, 1893, an American citizen was burned until life was extinct and until his flesh and bones were reduced to ashes. The victim was an *unconvicted* criminal and in the presence of from 10,000 to 20,000 people, calling themselves Christians, in a so called Christian state, which is a member of a so called Christian Nation, this human being was tortured; he was bound and placed upon a high platform and there, in the presence of that Christian community, his naked body was burned with red hot irons, until the flesh was blistered and hung in torn fragments, his eyes were burned out with red hot irons, and then his burning and bleeding quivering flesh was saturated with kerosene, likewise the platform upon which he was bound and the faggots, prepared for their hellish and cannibalistic feast, were then ignited in the presence of more than 10,000 men, women and children. The awful cries of the burning victim and pleadings to be killed outright was but music in that multitude's ears, and the smell of his burning flesh was a sweet smelling offering to their God of Justice. Had this crime been committed in the so called dark ages it could not have been more inhuman than now.

That the Negro is a *human* and worthy the protection accorded every American citizen, I affirm. On the day following the Texas burning and on the day upon which President Harrison appointed a Southern Democrat to fill the vacancy made by the death of Justice Lamar, a Southern Negro wrote these words: "The Negro does not want 'Negro rule' and he disdains 'social equality,' but he cannot submit to the great principle 'taxation without representation' no more than did Rutledge, Adams, Franklin, Otis, Patrick Henry, George Washington, et al. I can vote, with the satisfaction of knowing that it will not be counted." "The Negro does not want 'Negro rule.'" Neither does any white man want "Negro rule." But the Negro wants an equal political educational and industrial chance with every other American citizen.

It is a shame and a disgrace to the country for which our immortal Lincoln wrought and perished and for which dead heroes died to say that greater wrongs are inflicted upon the Negro, in the South, this day than in the days of his legal bondage. Deeds of savage brutality are committed against the Negro race in the South, equal to any ever perpetrated by the most untutored savage in any age of the world. In this we do not attempt to excuse, palliate, or shield the Negro in crimes committed, but we do insist upon a law abiding citizenship and upon a loyal adhesion to the 14 and 15 amendments of the Constitution of the United States. The young man from whose letter I have been quoting says, "I am a Negro and one that loves my God, my Country and my race; and my equal and political liberty as I love my life, you ask "why do, I feel that I do not enjoy equal political rights" Pardon me sir but its not a matter of feeling with me, but a matter of knowing a certain fact." Here is a young man 28 years of age, born under the shadow of the expiring confederacy, his parents were once slaves, he was reared in poverty, at hard toil; amidst discouragements that would appall most white children he has acquired an education. His standing is good but for the fact that he is a Negro. He has been admitted to the bar" * • "to practice law, but has never been able to purchase such books as would allow" him "to practice." and then "all the court officials are *white* and one has a hard fight for his client, being a Negro which of course naturally makes it hard for a poor Negro Lawyer." I wish to say to the colored people of Carbondale that this young lawyer is a total abstainer from intoxicating drinks and believes in legislating and voting to Pulverize the Rum power. America for Americans is my motto. Equal political rights regardless of race, sex, religion, or partisan ties. One country, one nationality, one language and one flag but not one saloon.

JOHN W. CUSTER.