

Cedar Rapids June 29 1893
 Judge A. W. Sawyer

I have read more or less of your "Stand" notes and must at least express admiration at your perseverance. I suppose that when one becomes so thoroughly imbued with any ~~great~~ cause, ~~nothing~~ ~~seem~~ seem to be, in this matter of justice to the negro, one becomes unconscious of the drift of public opinion and oblivious to the fact that the cause for which he is battling is hopelessly lost. ~~For this reason~~ ~~often~~ ~~to~~ ~~illustrate~~ ~~an~~ ~~argument~~ ~~or~~ ~~make~~ ~~a~~ ~~point~~ by the relation of a ~~very~~ plain and ~~simple~~ ~~and~~ ~~sometimes~~ off color anecdote. I will relate an anecdote which will tell better than a full page explanation of my own could. Now I think your "Stand" added your chances of success are. An old man was once engaged in lumbering. The scene of his labors was on a mountain side where he used to fall the trees preparatory to cutting them into saw logs. Sometimes a tree would lean down hill and to let it fall the way it leaned meant the loss of the tree, as it would go over a precipice and be irreversibly lost.

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To prevent a calamity of this kind, it was his custom to climb the tree and attach a rope to it, and when the tree had been cut as far as was safe, he would then hitch an old roan horse to the rope and by this means pull the tree in the desired direction. On one occasion however the tree proved too heavy, and notwithstanding the struggles of horse and man all went down till as the old gent uttered the despairing cry while tugging at the horse's head, "rip, rounce, the bridle is breaking!" And so in ~~grass~~ ~~and~~ ~~judge~~, I think that you have attached yourself to a load which is going to be too heavy for you. I shall not attempt to pass upon the justness or merits of the matter, but this I do believe that Ingalls is right, and that the ~~other~~ impossibility of maintaining the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments is becoming more evident as the years go by. The wisdom of enfranchising the negro without any preparation, without any training for the duties and responsibilities of citizenship may well be

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called into question. If the object was re-
tribution it was still more questionable.
I have no sympathy with the South in their
treatment of the negro. I feel no qualms of con-
science, no softening towards them in the punish-
ment and humiliation which came to them by
their own invitation. But, ~~considering the in-~~
~~terests of the negro alone,~~ who can point to
any great benefits derived or to any prospect
of better in the future, ^{from making the negro citizen} is it not a fact that
that the gulf is constantly widening? And inter-
ference by government only aggravates the evil.
I am a Republican. In analyzing my position
I find that it comes to me like this. The line
dividing the two great parties is simply the line
dividing right and wrong. The democratic par-
ty has never changed its name since it was
born. This is its boast of its leaders. No more
~~has since.~~ It is the same in all ages. The ranks
of the good ^{may} take on other names and use
other methods of attack. but the same old foe is
~~always encountered.~~ Evil like the Pop is

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always with us now under these conditions. To
expect perfection is to court disappointment
and defeat. The Republican party has maintained
a gallant fight for the colored race, and as
a result have suffered defeat. The Republicans
of Iowa have made a gallant fight for tem-
perance and here also we have seen a mag-
nificent majority of eight thousand fitted and
armed men submitting to democratic domina-
tion. Now let us look the matter squarely in
the face. Is there any one the better for our
losing fight. Is any interest of humanity sub-
served by our hopelessly trying to float a
cause which bears in its ~~own~~ ^{existence} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~elements~~ ^{of} ~~of~~ ^{defeat}
~~proper~~ ~~for~~ ~~its~~ ~~own~~ ~~existence~~. Let the ~~learning~~ ~~to~~ ~~our~~ ~~own~~
~~most~~ ~~part~~ ~~change~~ ~~the~~ ~~eternal~~ ~~principles~~ ~~of~~ ~~our~~
~~nation~~. ~~before~~ ~~you~~ ~~can~~ ~~hope~~ ~~for~~ ~~success~~.
It is the God given mission to the good to
try and hater the evil meantime the tendency to
evil is the "Moral Law of ^{moral} gravitation". The white
people of the South no less than the colored
demand the labors of the Christian and the phi-
lanthropist. If slavery has had a deterring
affect upon the blacks, the whites have felt its
demoralizing tendencies as well why should
all your sympathies be bestowed on the one

race? ~~Mr~~ Chas Dickens once said, when some
enthusiastic lover of the colored people was
filling his ears with the old story of the wrongs
of the negro and ignoring the claims of the white
man to a little chance to live. "While I am a friend
to the negro, I am not an enemy to the white man."
It seems to me now judge that two hundred and fifty
years of slavery, for which the whites of the pres-
ent day are no more responsible than are the
Colored people, ought to admit some consideration
for them as well, as for the others. I fancy that the
wise plan in political economy is to strike that happy
medium which shall prove beneficial to all,
and not to work on the lines of intolerance and ex-
tremism which brings in to antagonism the ex-
tremes of society. We have no authority so far
as I know, for the extirpation of the negro. The wrong
ours only chance is to try and improve that which
we have. ~~We are powerless to make a new kind
of man. Let us then labor in the larger interests of the
entire race. Man cannot be reformed in a day. It often
takes centuries to establish a right principle. God will
no doubt say "Chesnut" to the oak, but its age, like in the
case of Chesnut and vine improver.~~

Yours Truly, Saml. Page.