

June 26 1893

Albion W. Tourgee Esq.

Mayville N. Y.

Dear Sir:

In "at Bytander's view" published in the Chicago Inter Ocean of June 10th you refer to Mr. Halstead's position as to the negro and slavery in such a way as to show some misrepresentation of his ^{former} views or position. Yet I must confess that it is difficult for any one to avoid doing so.

When Mr. Halstead saw John Brown hung he was well on the way of conversion from being a Democrat to being a Republican. Perhaps he had already, save in one thing, become a convert: but as that one thing — the tariff question — was not a prominent issue at that time, it was not inconsistent for him to adhere to his free trade notions with utmost vehemence and intolerance.

Hence it seems to me fair to defend his then position and go further and say that he accepted the logic of events as they came with promptness.

working well and earnestly for the cause of the Union. If he thought that granting the right of national citizenship to the colored man was "merely an experiment," I do not think his thoughts had expression in that which he wrote.

It was, in these days, one of the fine features of his attitude on public questions that he wrote under convictions and independently. At least such was supposed to be the fact and that he wrote passionately even violently was accepted as evidence of his sincerity and ~~single~~ single mindedness.

But latterly, especially since he has taken a conspicuous position on the question of negro suffrage ~~question~~ ~~changing the old~~ ~~from~~ different from that which he held with great positiveness a quarter of a century ago, and has sought to fuel the bloody sheet that he waived on slightest provocation, he has at least subjected himself to ~~to the capitulation of~~ classification among those who regard it as "the true function of a party to merely secure the power to marshal the Federal forces in order to any

according to political expediency"

In an evil hour under notions that are painful to hear unspoken and more painful to see logically sustained, he left his proud position as an independent journalist and sought to become a mere partisan advocate. It would be pleasant to believe that he repented, through party success, to acquire power to promote the public weal; but success at one time seemed only to be regarded as a new opportunity to maintain partisan ascendancy and the emergency was consequently always on hand to justify extreme partisanship in marshalling the forces for successive campaigns. The forces he chose to subordinate were the offensive ones - he worked with them and did more than any other man in his profession to bring about the defeat of the Rep. party.

His methods cannot rehabilitate the party - certainly not permanently. It is a shame, a deplorable shame, that he cannot see it.

When "The Commercial" and "Gazette"

were merged, the Commercial was Gazette,
~~with~~ the patronage of the ~~old~~ Gazette
 domestic and with a singular inaptitude
 as a politician, Mr. Helstead lead ~~it into~~
 the newly combined forces into ~~at a~~ ^{penitence} ~~severe~~
^{that} the old Gazette had not before
 been subjected to.

In fact Mr. Helstead has always
 failed as a politician; his efforts in that
 direction have been generally ludicrous.
 Why it should be so is not easy to say.
 For he is a fair man when he is able to
 subordinate passion, but that it is so is one
 of the most lamentable facts in the
 career of one whose voice has sounded
 from end to end of the country through
 his pen.

His new position on the Negro
 question will be of little consequence unless
 purchased by the singular law of ^{Colonies} ~~countries~~ that
 has usually marked his ^{political} efforts, it seems
 to be of decided advantage to the Negro
 side.

I have presumed on your
 time in this writing but I could not well
 resist the impulse to give expression to

Some of the thoughts awakened by
your notes on "The Porting of the Negro"

That which I have written is
for your own eyes only. It would
afford me pleasure to meet you
personally and have the subject in
hand for further consideration.

My home is in Cincinnati.
It is probable that some of my fellow
citizens, who are likely to be in Chatan-
gula, can identify me to you.

Very respectfully

John A. Gano

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Chicago