

My dear Sir: I have your letter with reference to a proposed "Civil Rights" clause in the Constitution of the State. My services are always freely rendered, ^{to the extent of my ability} from anything that ~~prevents~~ a fuller liberty, ~~to the full limits of my ability to do~~.

In this case, you will pardon me if I say that I do not see anything to be gained by the course you suggest. ~~But~~ it is, I do not see the need for any declaration in the constitution upon the subject, unless it ~~shall~~ be as a safeguard against some invasion of public power or chartered privilege. Even then I am not aware that anything would be gained by such a course. The courts of the State have been pretty strict ~~in~~ ^{on} this subject.

It might do to simply say ~~the~~

There shall be no distinction of
right or privilege in this state
based on race or color.

It is possible that such a
provision might slip through
without much opposition if the
matter is carefully managed.
What I am afraid of is that
the question of mixed schools
may flash on the minds
of the convention. If it should

they would vote anything down.

It seems to me, therefore, that it would be dangerous to move in anything more ~~and~~ ~~pass~~ specific than such a clause as I have indicated above. Specific provisions in a constitution are dangerous any-
how.

I received a letter from Mr. R. E. Bruce of Washing-

ton, commending you to every
attention. Such introduction was
unnecessary. Any man who asks
my aid in the cause of justice and
equal rights, gets it whether I know
him or not. I am very glad,
however, to see that the young
colored men are taking up
the work of ^{asserting and} defending the rights
of their race. Whoever works
for fuller liberty and exact
justice for the whole, is a patriot.
A great struggle is before you

people and they will need all the
wisdom and fortitude they can
muster to bring them through
to an assured citizenship. It
gives me the greatest pleasure,
therefore, to see them alive to their
duty.

Yours very truly
