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McLown, Miss.
July 6th 1894.

Hon. Albion W. Bourger,
Mayville, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed I hand you an editorial from the Memphis (Tenn.) Weekly Commercial of the 27th ult., a paper with a large Southern circulation. Thinking you might not take that paper, & would fail to see it is my reason for enclosing it. I endorse it into to.

During last Presidential campaign I took the Chicago Inter-Ocean to read up on the ultra wing of the Republican party on protective tariff. During that time I read your articles on the "bigger" question & thought a good deal of

your
strange & extreme views. I wrote
you in regard to it, & have your
letter in reply on file. I am of
the same opinion now as when
I wrote you, that the final solution
the Negro question will be for them
to go back to Africa. But I do
not propose to discuss that question
now. — Do you want to go to Con-
gress? Let me make a suggestion
that may aid you if you can
work it up. Mississippi would
like to exchange with New York
50,000 or 100,000 Negroes for the
same number of honest, indus-
trious, progressive white people, to
settle up our cheap, productive
lands. Now if you can work up
this trade from your district, & make
them believe you are the real friend
you seem to be they might vote for
you. But don't make the mistake of

getting down on a social
equality with them; they would
desert you sure, as unworthy of
support — having sunk beneath the
level God intended you to occupy.
But to be candid, the war
is over in the South. Another gen-
eration is on the stage. Our fathers
fought manfully for what they
thought was the right, until they
surrendered to superior numbers
and strength at Appomattox. The
South accepted the inevitable,
and but for such writers as yourself
the bitter feeling, toward us, of the
Northern people would have long
since subsided.

There is now no whine as
more loyal people to the Union
than those of the South. Should
occasions require the Union to
be defended against a foreign

or domestic foe, Mississippi
would furnish as brave and
determined an army as New York.

The negro problem is one of the
drags of the war. But for them there would
be no bitter feeling about it. The question
confronts the Southern people demanding
solution. They can & will, slowly, but surely,
settle it rightly & justly. Such men as
you only aggravate & prolong it.

Now, brother, if you want the people
of the South to cherish a kindly feeling
for you, cease your harsh utterances about
them. If you really desire to aid in the
solution of this difficult question, come
down & study the Negro awhile from a
Southern stand point, as well as from
yours. We will settle any way that is just &
right that will not compromise our honors
or attempt to sink us to a social level
of the race that is, & must now remain an
inferior one. Very truly, S. B. Gilbert