C. E. BELKNAP, Chairman,
Grand Rapids, Mich.
E. A. CRANE, Kalamazoo, "
S. F. DWIGHT, Hillsdale, "
L. L. CHURCH, Howard City, "
J. M. WHALLON, Fitchburg, "

Chickamauga, Chattanooga and Missionary Ridge
Military Park Commission,
of Michigan.

Hillsdale
~~Grand Rapids~~, Mich., Apl. 15 1895

Hon. Albion W. Tourgee.
Mayville. N.Y.

Dear Sir and Comrade:

The initial number of The Basis came duly to hand, but no other number has, as yet, been received by me. I do hope that it has not suspended publication. The copy sent me is kept circulating amongst my friends and associates.

The first vote that I ever cast was for Edwin D. Morgan for Gov. of N.Y. and I have voted the Republican ticket ever since that time. From the time that Hayes, the Little, became President of this Nation, the Republican party has played a game of "giveaway" of the fruits of the victories that the Nation secured in the War of the Rebellion. Now what is there left to giveaway? There never was a party with so great strength coupled with so little courage as the Republican party has to day and has had since 1876. I have lost all faith, and even hope, that it will do anything for Human Rights, but at the demand of greed the Rights of Negro will be protected. At the cry of "Bloody Shirt" raised by the

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White leaguers and Kuklukers whose hands were crimsoned and dripping with the blood of innocence, and with the blood of patriots and loyal men of the South, our party most ignominiously surrendered. Our men who were brave on the battlefield proved to be cowards in the halls of Congress. The Rebels proved their bravery on bloody battle fields and in the halls of Congress. I long to be enrolled in the ranks of a party that has "Human Rights" emblazoned on its flag and that flag nailed to the mast.

Had I the wealth of a Gould or an Astor every state North and West of the Ohio River would have at least two papers published, within their borders, with a million dollars capital behind each of them, and on the first page of every paper would be a cartoon showing the burning alive of the Negro at Paris, Texas, and the crowd of Sunday School children and Church goers &c, and on the editorial page a cartoon, flaying a colored man alive. I would teach the doctrine of protection to both the person and property. Every paper should teem with editorials on those subjects. This country would experience such an awakening

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as it never had before. Prof. Rawson Dunn of Hillsdale College and myself discussed this subject amongst ourselves some three years ago, or longer ago than that. He suggested a publication similar to one, you may have seen when a boy, entitled "Slavery as it is". That was a pictorial pamphlet, and John P. Hale's little daughter got hold of one, and used to sit in his lap and look at the pictures, then he became interested in it, and read it, and became an Abolitionist.

If not inconsistent with the policy, and course of matter mapped out for the Basis, I wish it would publish a statement of the number of Colored people killed in the South since the close of the war, giving the number for each year. If it could be classified it would be the thing. Telling the manner of death, Nos. without process, Nos. with process but before arrest, Nos. after arrest—but before trial, and Nos. after trial.

Senator Thurston of Neb. and Congressman Milnes of this Hillsdale Dist. are in touch with us on the question of Human Rights.

I remain yours, very truly
S. F. Dwight

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013