8851

[illegible] Ans. 10 Jan.

864 Tally St.

Shreveport, La., Dec. 12, 1885.

Comm'r P. W. [illegible]

Washington D. C.

My dear Sir:

About two months ago I received a letter from you which somehow had been misplaced, stating that you had received a notice from the P. O. [illegible] that [place] of [illegible] and by me, but that you had failed to receive a letter from me to that effect. I know that [illegible] letter [illegible], (I suppose about two months after it was written) but [illegible]

[illegible] story that was
sent [illegible] Advance [illegible]?
It was to be entered in the
Second class in the contest
for Colored writers.
Would have written long
ago but have been quite ill.
And will you please tell me,
either by mail or through the
columns of the [illegible], why
it is, that the citizen of the
United States styles himself
as "The American"? This is but
a general term and might just
as well be applied to the Mexican.
In fact, it does not seem that
we can have a specific name
like those of the other countries
of America. But I think it is
generally accepted, that when we
say "I am an American citizen" that

we mean that he is a citizen
of the United States.
Pardon me for troubling you.
[illegible] early reply [illegible],
[illegible] E. [illegible]

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013