Personal.

Hon. Wm. E. Chandler:

Dear Sir:

I send you by this mail a marked copy of the New Orleans Crusader. I wish you would take the time to read the editorial I have marked and then look at the little subscription account entitled "Mr. Desdunes Kicking."

You will see by these,

1— That The Crusader is about to suspend publication.

2— That it has been struggling on for months, living on little contributions of this sort.

Now, I wish to say just one word in regard to this matter: The effort of the men who have run the Crusader, to establish a daily republican newspaper in New Orleans, is the bravest thing I have

ever known and the
most heroic endeavors
ever made by individ-
uals of the colored race
in the United States. I have
been familiar with the enter-
prise, in a remote, ever since
its initiation and I must
say I have never seen such
dogged resolution and
such cheerful self-sacrifice
displayed by any body
of men as a mere matter
of principle and the benefit

I cannot begin to tell you the fine brave things they have done; but I can say this; it is about the only instance of dogged and exalted self-sacrifice of a united or co-operative character that the Negro-race in the United States has displayed, as far as my knowledge extends. They resolved that they would not under any circumstances resort to the peripatetic system of solicitation through the North which has been too often the only stock-

of others. ~~in~~

These were the condi-
tions: A little company of
colored men desiring to
promote self-respect and
manly independence among
their ~~fell~~ colored fellow-citizens
and wishing to prevent the utter
decay of real republicanism
and ~~prevent the sway of~~ correct the
~~more~~ mercenary tendencies
~~among~~ among them, put their
means together, ~~and est.~~ bought a
small plant and established
the Crusader — ~~then and~~

now, the only Republican daily in the South. It

This was two years ago, though they had been running it as in the very lowest ebb of weekly, for several years previously, everything political and financial. It was not wise. They admitted this at the time, but said that if something was not done the colored people of the state would lose all pride and hope and be content to sell themselves politically, for any mess of pottage that might be offered to any one of them.

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So they divided up the work. The printers and laborers took half=pay: the editors, worked for nothing, relieving each other so that they might work a part of the time at other business and so be able to carry this on. Working in this way, they have kept the ~~thing~~ paper afloat by simply giving part of their life every day to its support. It has all the time been unflinchingly re=publican, opposed to bargain corruption and every un=worthy tendency.

in trade of ~~such~~ colored enterprises. To this resolution they have faithfully adhered.

It was the Crusader which set on foot the movement to test the constitutionality of the "Jim Crow Car law" which will be reached in the Supreme Court, either the last of this term or the first of next term. For this they raised, in nickel-subscriptions mostly, about $3500. for counsel fees and costs. I have had charge of the case from

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the beginning giving my services gratuitously, they se=curing associate counsel to act under my direction in the state courts and also asso=ciating with me, my old friend Hon S. F. Phillips formerly Solicitor General, in Washington.

I think, in spite of the previous rulings of the Court, we are go=ing to knock this sort of legis=lation out or at least give it a very black eye. If we do the credit will belong wholly to this little company of Crusader heroes. As you may know, I am not much

given to strong expression for I have an abiding faith in the greatness of human nature; but I cannot refrain from using this term with regard to the words of these men.

At the risk of wearying you, I must give some details to justify what may seem to you like extravagance.

~~Theodore~~ Louis A. Martinet, the Editor, who is the glowing heart of the whole enterprise, is a wonderful man. Almost as white as we, the son of a French creole, he became strong

slavery a child and was among the first to ~~[illegible]~~ attend the ~~[illegible]~~ schools for freedmen in New Orleans. He studied law, was admitted but became dis-satisfied at the lack of opportu-nity the profession offered for assisting the colored people. So he got an appointment as Notary Public, which he has since held under all changes of admin-istration, and sets about study-ing medicine. He is now De-monstrator of anatomy in the Colored Medical College of the City. By his fees as Notary and Demonstrator, he has supported his family and ~~[illegible]~~ given his

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nights and much of his earning, to the Crusader.

When he graduated in the Medical School, the Crusader was a weekly. ~~and~~ Ex-president Hayes asked me to name a ~~[illegible]~~ colored man whom I thought it would be really profitable to send abroad to study either art or science ~~for three or four years~~; offering to give such an one $1,200, a year for three or four years. I named Martinet and after thoroughly investigating his career and character, although he was

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and had a wife and daughter,
then thirty years old, this
offer was made to him.

What do you suppose he did? After considering it a month he replied that the proposition was a tempting one and would be of inestimable advantage to him. He would rather go to Paris to study for that length of time, than anything else in the world, especially as I found was really his native tongue. But he added that it seemed to him that his duty to his people and honorable obligations to them with

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whom he had engaged on the Crusader to require him to forego, with many thanks and regrets, even such a tempting ~~author~~ offer. You say he was a fool? No doubt, but it was a grand sort of folly after all, was it not? Of course, Hayes was hurt that the man would not be helped in the way he had planned out and buttoned up his pocket-book. I do not know that I am blaming him. One likes to prescribe the conditions of the aid he gives another. Again, the Committee on the Jim Crow Car Case wanted Hon. Thomas B. Reed, and worked with us. This was two or ~~three~~ years ago. Martinet said, "No, Thomas B. Reed is our only hope for a president who

will mean justice to the colored man and we must not hang a stone about his neck to hinder his nomination."

Again, a few weeks ago, the Morton boomers sent a couple of colored representatives South in his behalf. They were anxious I should do something to incline the Crusader element favorably to him.

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Being fully satisfied that the old man's tree will ~~before would~~ ultimately yield Red apples ~~fruit~~, I wrote Martinet that I thought he would better tap the Morton barrel for $1,000 or $2,000 to put the Crusader on its feet. The Red editorial which I have marked, is his reply to this proposal. I am not sure he will not flail me for making it.

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Now, what I want to ask you, as a man, is this: Is it not worth while to take hold and help out such a colored man in such an honorable enterprise? In my opinion $1,000. or $1,500. put into that mill would do more for the race than $10,000 invested in any other way. You know Emerson says that "the value of an idea" to the world that is "depends upon the man behind it." This idea has a man behind it.

As a Republican, I would like to ask, is it not worth while to stand up to the only Republican daily in the South?

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True it is a "negro paper" — started and carried on for two years, unaided by a little company of colored men?

But is it not worth while to put $1,500, of hope and courage and cheer into the hearts of such republicans?

They will not buy nor sell nor truckle, nor beg, nor advocate what they believe wrong or corrupt. But on the other hand, they never bolt nor give aid or comfort to the enemy.

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In fact, so far as I can see, they are a fair sample of the very best type of white republicans, with a little more patience and a brighter hope and trust.

As a Reed republican, I would like to inquire if it would not pay to help so sincere, faithful and unswervable supporter?

Fifteen hundred dollars would not only keep the Crusader alive during the campaign

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but make it a permanent success. The economy with which it has been managed is amazing. These men have carried it through the teething season. It has no debts or none of any account. These men who have worked for a living during the day and given from four to six hours each night to work on the paper, can be trusted to pinch every nickel until it will count as a dime.

Can they not be helpful?

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I know of no one to whom I can present the matter but you. I am just getting out of the woods with the Boris and can do nothing, though I am going to tell this story, such as freely as here, in the March number and see if I cannot help them in some way.

I will not ask your pardon for intruding on

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your time, since I trust you will regard it as no intrusion.

Yours very truly.

P.S. I have marked this letter "personal". Of course, you are at liberty to use it as you see fit, only I would not like to have it published as that might defeat its object. Outside of that you are at liberty to show it to any one you may care to acquaint with its purpose.

You will perhaps recall the fact that you have never seen my name connected with any petition

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or recommendation for aid to any person or institution before. I do not lend it for such purposes.

A. W. P.

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