

AMERICAN CONSULATE.

Bordeaux, France, November 23, 190

52 Cours du Jardin Public.

My dear Gould:

Your letter of the 9th inst, is at hand.

I received the news of the election about the same time you wrote, by cable. It was a wonderful thing, this election of 1904. I had kept close run of it through the press and like you had no doubt of the result, but the magnitude of the pluralities grows more and more overwhelming. Why didn't you make it an even half million in Pennsylvania, when you came so near it?

I had a finger in the campaign though you would hardly imagine it and had a letter from the Secretary of the National Committee acknowledging the value of my contributions, most of which were anonymous. Nothing was needed, however. The people did their own thinking and the President's magnificent letter replying to Parker's accusations, clenched the matter. I cannot see why any one advised him not to issue that bit of solid English prose. I have written him that I would rather he were defeated with such brave words in his mouth than win in silence. I meant it, too. We have endured Democratic imputation and assumption long enough. It was time to speak out.

I take it there is little fear of my being disturbed. My health was very bad for several months but in August last, the doctors made an excavation in my hip and took out a piece of

(2)

lead which must have been wandering around in my anatomy since Perryville. I have been much better since. I now weigh 175 and feel almost well--except for my hands which are painfully hypersensitive--making writing a burden which has long been a delight

I wish you would send me as soon as it appears, a list of the votes--not the pluralities--for the two leading presidential candidates, by States. I want the information for an article I am preparing and fear I may not see it if I do not get some friend to look out for it for me. I should like also very much, a good lithographic portrait of Roosevelt. I have none for the office. I tried to get some of my friends to send me one during the campaign, when I suppose there were plenty living around, but they all failed me.

I have always been rather sorry for defeated candidates for the Presidency heretofore, but Parker is the champion lunkhead of the crowd who has not even won respect from his own people. Belmont ought to give him a conductor's place on the Subway, for having "personally conducted" the biggest "Subterranean Movement" ever known on earth! He made up all the judges to his 16 White men. It is a long time since you and I cast our first ~~votes~~ together for Lincoln at Rochester. We looked for much in the future which lay before us, but no imagination could have pictured the greatness and glory of the epoch we now look back upon. Its blood and tears were as inconceivable as its shame. Who could have dreamed that the nation which freed the slaves and established

lished universal American citizenship by that grandest charter of Liberty the world ever saw--the 14th Amendment of the Constitution--would have permitted even in the lifetime of those who helped to achieve its glories, the greatest ravishment of human rights ever known in all the world's history? Who could have imagined that 7,000,000 of freemen--citizens of the United States would have been deprived of all the freemen's rights,--the ballot, all representation in government, equal opportunity, that opportunity which is always the spur of best achievement? Who would have dreamed that the "Slave Republic" passing through a brief period of liberty, would have become the greatest despoiler of those who had borne the burden of Slavery's lust for 250 years?--the mightiest oppressors of the weakest! I fancy I can see your grand old father's face working with righteous wrath could he know the conditions of the Solid South which gave to Parker, his 133 votes. What would he have said should he have known that in eleven States of the American Union, no colored man or woman is permitted to ride in the same street or railway car with a white person, and the conductor made by law the judge as to who is white and who is colored?

In my opinion, the next fifty years will be more difficult and trying to the American lover of liberty, fair play and equal opportunity than the half century which has passed. Slavery--the legal estate of inferiority and degradation was destroyed by law because it was the creature of law. Caste--which was the backbone

(4)

of Slavery--its most essential element--is a thing outside of law which is coddled by the cowardly indifference of our Supreme Court. We find it easy to apply the 14th Amendment to material conditions, say the Northern Securities Case--but American citizenship is not a thing of sufficient importance to our highest tribunal to justify even its consideration as a protector of equal rights. To day, a negro burned in defiance of law, swathed in cotton saturated with kerosene, constitutes the American idea of "Liberty Enlightening the World." The problem of Slavery was an easy one to solve compared with the present,--but "Break my heart, for I must hold my tongue!"

It was very kind of you to think of me, the morning after election. May such be your fortune and my pleasure on many another such a day! My wife and daughter still make a heaven of earth for me. Without their unremitting loving care, I should not be here to write this letter to you now. Our kindest regards to all your family.

Sincerely yours,

