

Leicester,
January 14/79

My dear friend Garrison;

I am late in reciprocating your kind wishes of the New Year, and in thanking you for the volume "Deterioration", &c. I am looking into it from time to time, as opportunity offers, my days badly cut up by duties here and engagements elsewhere, and mean to make it a study. Your commendation of it, & that of so many others of our most careful & thoughtful people, is enough to make such study quite a peremptory duty.

I was grieved to hear from Wm. of the fall you got near his house, and from your own letter of your illness while in New York. I had quite made up my mind, previously, that you were working yourself over hard. New York will have brought you, in the circumstances, a quiet time and something perhaps of a rest; and I hope you will forget the need you now feel of more care of yourself.

I am even more grieved, and greatly troubled, and at times quite unhappy, that I cannot altogether agree with you in the view

You take of our National present and future,
and of the attitude and responsibility of the
present Administration. I do not differ,
of course, from your horror, disgust, and
condemnation of the outrages at the South^o
upon the Negroes and their friends; and
I am always glad when a blast from your
trumpet arouses, in any measure, the public
mind, & turns attention upon acts which are
as detestable for their cowardice and their
deliberate breaking of faith as they are for
their cruelty. Be sure that your words,
and all similar words, are not lost. The
best northern mind is not that which is the
noisiest, & oftenest heard. And the American
people will as little forgive the lying and
cheating which Wade Hampton has practised
upon them, as they would the firing upon
Fort Sumter. They were willing to trust
him and try him, when he gave his most
solemn promise that the colored men should
have the full and protected enjoyment and
exercise of their civil and personal rights;

for they would not refuse any man a chance
to redeem his past, who gave solemn
assurances of honor and fidelity. Now - at
a heavy cost indeed - they have found him out,
^{him} and those of his kidney.

Now I deem it better, better for the final
triumph of law and justice, that we should have
trusted and tried these men, than to have expected
to do so, & kept up the attitude of suspicion, &
maintained the feeble, scarce more than nominal,
surveillance we had of them, through the few troops
we were able to keep there, - allowing, which I do not,
that Mr. Hayes could have kept them there. That
point was determined & settled before Gen Grant
left the presidency; and as it would necessarily have
been settled, no matter who succeeded him in the
presidential office. - As it is now, the Nation
feels, and the World sees, that the Govt. & people
of the U. S. have been generous towards these Southern
men, - for bearing, as always, & magnanimous, -
that they have done everything which in reason, and
by every honorable conception, could have been
asked of them; and the World sees how false

and base these Southern political lords and managers are, and are even now visiting them with a rebuke & condemnation, sure to gain enlargement & intensity, until it overwhelms & crushes them. Let us not distrust the powers, of the people & of Providence, which have once so signally defeated the power of Slavery; and will do so again in the new form in which that monster presents itself.

- I think I chiefly differ from you in your appeal to the Republican party, ^{exclusively,} ~~now~~ ^{to} take up this work of justice & honor to the colored people of the South and their friends. It is their work; they know it is their work; and they know they are eternally disgraced if they neglect it. But it is not their work alone; it is the work, & the duty, of the whole American people, who have put it into their Constitution & frame-work of Government, & who must be held to an honest performance of that which they have undertaken to do. We see some evidences, outside of the Repub. party, that the people, North & South, are ashamed of and disgusted at the course of the Southern politicians; of which I enclose two, taken from recent papers. One is from the Penn. (W.) Democrat, & tells those men "if they want any more further support from northern democrats, they must act like civilized white men & not like demoniac savages". Let us welcome that feeling in every possible way, & not allow it to be thought that it is impossible for any good to come out of the Nazareth of the Democratic party, and especially beware of a course which tends to force the Democratic press into silence on this

Subject lest they be charged with making capital for the Republican party. I do not think I have the least particle of faith whatever in the Democratic party as led & managed now, and as it is sure to continue to be for a long time yet; but ~~of~~ the great bulk of ^{those who compose} the Dem^o. party I do not feel so hopeless. There is certainly an element of honor & common sense in them; & we must do all in our power to enlarge that element, & give it confidence & voice. It seems to me we shall do something to "quench this smoking flax," by making our appeals for justice and good faith too exclusively on Republican grounds.

The other extract I find in this morning's paper, and is from the New Orleans Times; and is precisely what I have been hoping & expecting for a long time past to see; to be amazed not to see sooner. This is the outbreak of a manly feeling of horror, and a manly conviction of wrong, from which everything is to be hoped, it seems to me. Soon the time is dark, but we are not without rays of light. I hate to differ from you in anything, and always have to carefully review and re-consider my ground, when I do not see my way clear to take yours. I hope (and think) that in the main question, I am wholly with you.

I was very glad of your dignified rebuke

of the "Advertiser" for refusing to print
your letter, and fulminating its contemptuous
censure of it. And I have only scorn
for the self-conceit & patronizing tone
it affects, in its comments on your letter
which they do publish. "Prophets of an
outgrown dispensation"!, it says. We
have seen before, men who didn't know their
own fathers, or, knowing them, disowned them
from cowardly "fear of the folk".

It is mail time, and I must stop.

Always truly Yrs.

Lane. May