

Confidential

Mountain St. School. Jan^y 20. 92

Mr. Charles M^c Namee,

My dear Sir,

I know that you are often overburdened with your special duties and I am therefore loath at any time to worry you with my affairs and troubles. But I also know of your sympathy with and benevolence toward my people and I am sure that you will excuse my intrusion — as you have always done whenever I come to you for advice and help as against the unkindness, the wrongdoings, of certain men of your race.

On the part of some of them, there is a determination to "run out" all persons, white and black, who try to better the condition of the Negroes, to help them build manly, self reliant, Christian character, if not by brutal "Kludges methods," by the equally effective bulldozing, misrepresentations, insults, "bluffings," and other wicked devices.

Sometime ago the white ladies of the Northern Methodist Mission School were warned late one night by a white crowd that "if they didn't 'clear out' in two days they would swing on the same tree where

"the nigger was lynched." Next day the ladies appealed for protection to the mayor and chief of police who spurned them and their request. In terror they packed their trunks that night and early started to leave when, at the square, some "leading citizen," realising the seriousness of this step, urged them not to depart. Miss Dole, principal of the School, which is on College Str., recently told me of this and other persecutions by white ^{persons} because she and her friends persist in teaching "niggers."

With regard to myself and lady fellow teachers, after many hardships and sufferings, last year and this, in matter of board and lodgings, at our wits' end we asked the Sup't (Clackson) and Chairman (West) of School Committee ^{last week} for help. This latter spoke to us most unkindly, rudely, in a way that his "chivalry" would not have allowed him to talk to the lowest white women.

Much disgust is shown because civilised, Christian people, tho Negroes, who have perhaps enjoyed superior associations, comforts and refinements, respectfully decline to live "like hogs and other niggers." For a black person to be self respecting, decent, avertive ^{only} a little of his elementary rights is to be, in the

3 South, I have remarked, "a darn'd ~~sassy~~ nigger," "a creature more obnoxious than the most rabid dog or virulent serpent. Such a "nigger" must go!"

In no pagan land has the Christian missionary more despicable sufferings to endure than the persons who labor for the Negroes' social elevation and moral improvement at the hands of many Southern Christians. Their displeasure at successful ^{work} is less than that of the "elder brother" on the welcome of the "prodigal son" than of the malevolent rancor of the deposed angels in their meeting in Pandemonium.

As Mr. Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation brought good to the masters as to the slaves, so will Mr. Vanderbilt's loan, we believe, be a source of blessing to these white people as to the black, issuing respectability, manhood and virtue, and the knowledge that justice to the weak, beneficence, is better service to Almighty God than punctilious church attendance or outward decorum.

That we may soon receive the benefits to come from the "Christian Institute" is the purpose of this letter, for I am urged by my fellow workers, white and colored alike, to request you, and I do so earnestly, to please have ready for us as quickly as possible

sible the building you so kindly helped us to get.

I am, yours very respectfully,

E. Stephens