U. S. Senate Dec 16, 1864

Colonel.

Your favor of last week has been received and I have to thank you for the kind expressions it contains. So far as the issue broached in my letter to The Cosmos is concerned I do not and cannot doubt that the principle will be established in our Constitution and that even those who are most hostile in doubt about the policy will overcome.
their hesitation and dare to be just and do right. My great fear is that many who seem to feel personal and mortify against myself, or perhaps I should say as little to take the place I occupy in the Senate - indicate a disposition to make the pretext for an insurrection - to wound Freedom in the name of Freedom - to go backward to the old policies reporter the slave prejudices rather than forward in the path our whole country is so strongly trending. This should not be. We must recognize the danger of being questioned, and the march toward a free equal suffrage.
Quarter of color, and only limited by wise qualifications as to time and maturity and perhaps public service such as may secure it from falling into the hands of men insincere in spirit, just emerging from slavery into freedom. That our National armies is largely of that faith in the present, and will be almost united by the coming year. You need no other assurance than the utterances flowing daily from the men who compose it. That the Administration will give an earnest support to the Right in the same direction is also happily not left
to doubt. I presume I violated no confidence when I state the fact that the President has already written a letter to Governor Hahn of Louisiana calling his attention to the question of franchise in connection with the selection of their State Convention for revising the Constitution in which occurs the following passage bearing on that point:

"You will have a convention which among other things will have to consider the question of franchise. I earnestly suggest..."
for your private consideration whether some of the colored people may not be let in and especially those who have fought gallantly in our armies.”

The publication of this letter which evidences an urgent desire for the establishment of equal rights, is moving on and pressing into its service all the support of the constitution by the conviction of the same principles for which the contest in Missouri has not yet been authorized. But probably soon will, and at all events has been read by many with great satisfaction and was read by the President himself to our own legislature.
I do hope that no low or selfish or paltry
influences will be permitted to mingle in
our deliberative efforts in this behalf. I
believe you know me well enough to feel persuaded
that any position I may hold from the people
will be freely rendered back at any moment.
They may find me more worthy of the place.
Let them the distribution of honors for the
hereafter be the care of themselves. I have
no coordinate claim for such compliment
and others will find the duties involve much
of labor, and mental disquietude. Our duty
to day is to advance - and to advance quickly.
That Missouri may blaze as a very jewel of
Freedom in the eyes of all the world.

This letter is not intended for publication but you
may show it to such of our friends as may feel
interested in the matters of which it treats. My compliments
to your lady. My wife's family are in Kentucky.

Yours truly, [Signature]

[Handwritten signature]