

Keyser. N.C. 6-22-93

Gov Carr.

Raleigh - N.C.

Dr. Col. - In looking over, some old papers,
I find the enclosed document, written
a few years since - If I am not,
wrongly impressed, it strikes me, you,
as an ex officio - planter, reprinted to
the, source - would, with yr nice appreci-
ation - of the ridiculous - in all probability,
come, more nearly, taking in - relishing
the same than any one else I know of
in the State, - "Subner" though you be -
in it. I lay no claim to "perlite literature"
or classicality - a mere medley - without
concision & system - yet - I can but feel, it
"An honest talk unfolds" with touches of truth -
if - if it recall one relic of the past, bring back
a shadowed memory of the Whilom day - the
fidelity of, Yes truly - the court, its very

mission will have been fulfilled, its weary
end, attained - To say - a la English -
simply, "thanks" - would, I feel, be putting
it, too mildly, for your nice "letter Credentials"
I have already, utilized it - alright -
So, I close - by wishing you - all the good,
flesh is heir to - feeling - the truth of the
aphorism - "A little nonsense, now & then,
Is relished by the wisest men" -

I have the honor to be - ever -

Yrs truly

J. H. Williams -

MS

I find it hard, to ignore the fact, that, I am
writing - "de Gubneur" - & not simply - "Col." -
all of wh. you see & feel - is but natural, tho'
I hold - commendably orthodox, in the average
hoped, of the rural districts, as often, retinized -

Ever Gratefully J -

The inclosed Essay, will require close, careful
reading,
to see, fully, the "gist" - wh. I trust you'll see

The Negro South as he was & as he is -

Mr Darwin has written some heavy octavos, & elaborated, some highly wrought & finely spun theories, to prove the negro, is of like origin, & homogeneous with the monkey. I have ever been slow & averse to accept opinions, right contrary to my every day & personal experience - I think I know the negro - I have been raised with him - played with him through childhood, worked him in Ala & La, on the farm, both before, & since the war, & freed many at the surrender - & have since, studied him up - from policy - principle & interest - though I, as many others, have lost the principal & given a heavy mortgage on the interest I had in him - Few of us, at the south, even, know, or rather knowing - fail to see his varied & strange characteristics - He is a social anomaly, a paradox - an enigma, & I may add, algebraically - an indeterminate quantity. From constant association, he has necessarily, contracted, imbibed & assimilated many of our characteristics - which I propose to show - yet he is radically & constitutionally - an utterly antipodal animal to us - He surely is not a whiteman, nor monkey - but simply - a negro - literally, & liberally so - Has cardinally - organic - physical & mental elements - that show a miraculous conglomeration of heroic incongruities in his make up - Has neither gratitude - virtue nor revenge - which - at a casual view, would seem, necessarily, to make him a negative character - yet he is indeed a religious & political enthusiast - Ignores - in toto - all prerogatives conferred by the Civil rights bill - his ambition, don't run that way - He'd feel in gratifying such - like a sinner in heaven - or a poor proud man,

at a frolic minus his Sunday clothes - He'd rather be a big dog, with a brass collar - at a cornshuckin - than door keeper, at a feast of royalty -
 Alas! how different from us - We lie awake at night - conjure up ambitious schemes - build rose tinted air castles, would fain foster the hope, that in the varying vicissitudes & possibilities of dame fortune's wheel - we too - where all are free & equal - may dare aspire to climb the walls - & scale the heights of James' proud temple - for "the lines of great men, all remind us."

The ocean makes our lives sublime
 And departing, leaves behind us
 Footprints in the sands of time"

We see daily - in the now humbler walks of life - our race, boast itself of ancestry - antecedents & genealogy - claiming precedence, by virtue of ~~xxxix~~ moral - social - or financial heritage - when to the most casual glance - its but too sad & patent a satire - on a mispent & ill successful life - & points but too plainly - to unimproved talents, a wasted opportunity misapplied or neglected & possibilities! Not so with the nigger - he is happy & contented - satisfied to let this little mundane sphere of own rock & roll on - its axes & axles - may rust & rub & grind into cyclones earthquakes & tornados - "he gras lib des de same" - As Bill Arps man Cobe said - "haut de l'etion - hit dont reflat de krap" - Bill Shakespeare says - "By patching - we makes de hole bigger" So tis - Whitefolk fret too much & crave for much they never kin git - Old nigg is calm & serene & lets it rain on - Man never is - but ever, to be blest - That is the whiteman.

He is in heaven all day (if his work goes on right); at night he lies down, makes in his mind, a bad balance sheet - & Devil-like - he is kicked to a climate more sulphurous - than the tropics - & but for his sanguine temperament - by the aid which - he conceals his newly laid schemes - rebuilds his castles & palaces - for another days work - he'd get & some perspire & sweat - & chew - the bitter bit - till there wouldnt be a bit left of him -

The donkey - all this time "injurin' old Boss' troubles" - has been quiet & serene - Fact - was like the fellow - on telling his gal, the old folks had agreed to it - said he was so happy - he didnt know what to do - & like old Miss Stallings (Marsar Sany's mother-in-law - in May Jones' courtship) - didnt know which "een" she stood on; he stood - on his head - thinking - feeling & fearing - his wife would - skin de cat - at least - (we infer modesty forbid) when - finally - she - just - "didnt!" - so that the way tis - we want to do so & so - & Mr Jigger - he just - dont - Inherits a species of veneration & respect for - whitefolks - (= i.e. - true, orthodox - sort) tho' generally tinged - with streaks of suspicion - for ^{he} usually goes for his color - regardless of any & all considerations of justice - law or equity - Likes "old Boss" pretty well - cep - he can vote for him - bound to sport de ticket - adderwise, he an Boss gets on fess - vote - Is careless ignorant, indolent & improvident - has little judgement & seldom uses what little he has - in fact - needs the whiteman, to stir & push him up & thick for him - which he readily accepts & accedes to as a natural sequence of race inferiority & fully admits the same - Is indeed a Slave philosopher, & carries out, admirably, & tenaciously the scriptural injunction -

In fact, they appear, merely, as marginal notes, in the context of the great social drama, becomes, so negligent, at times, of those high social relations, & amenities - time honored in the holy estate of matrimony - as to elicit from the curious, gossiping world of his fellows - that this same ^{causal} neglect of duty doing amounts to ~~even~~ criminality -! Has a horror of dancing - thinks it incompatible with the teachings of holy writ. The fiddle & bouzo are said to be tools of the Devil & implements of that famed & fear-inspiring region, variously & vaguely located, by scientific explorers, deep down South, beyond the equatorial tropics, with an average climatic thermometer of sulphurous white heat. Integrity "non est inventus" Case "not proved" - Back bone of his moral character badly injured - its feared fatally - Cause, late boom - in physical retrogression. Partition wall, between imagination & memory wadded away - by late influx of fiction - Cause reading "night thoughts" & highly colored literature. Petty loquacity is with him a worn, personal & though a grammatical paradox - is said to be proper - Idiomatic, probably - Duplicity is an indigenous plant & thrives well - present crop exceeds all others - Though, a falling off, from last year's receipts, is reported, it is expected there will be quite an influx from the rural districts to purchase Christmas goods - & though immigration be the watchword, it is thought, expedient by knowing ones & those having long stocks invested, to be unexpedient & impolitic - Just now - to import more experts - They hope by persistent energy & intense application to duty - to hold their own, through the good & timely intervention of the D^o ligance - Religion, he casts compass - the moral force of which he never takes in - It is an excitement - an emotion, a species of wild, fantastic, highly superstitious semi-social - safety valve - through which he eliminates his superabundance of religious zeal, from his great moral depository such as night meetings & funerals, when public bodies are to be addressed on momentous occasions & great interests are at stake - They are, all - one & all members - of the church bro misdemeanor, be it war, or capital or criminal - utter disregard of the marital tie - petty loquacity, or puerilest - does not militate one jot or tittle against his first class - orthodox - citizenship or church membership - He is in orthodox standing, & affables, with the biggest sheet of his flock -

He is a sensationist - loves long, heavy vociferous
sermons & prayers & a heap of 'em - & his brand of
true happiness, would be, to attend a big meeting & a funeral
every day the balance of his life - So Practical in
one thing only - never loses his religion - for them -
"He born cum'd through - him under de water - washed clean skin b'nd er give - in er
chile of God - & bann'fer - de kingdom" - sees many strange sights in his exper-
ience - from sin to grace - goes to heaven & hell too - but always comes back -
unfortunately for humanity - is thoughtful enough to get return tickets - 2nd class
at that - With all these social eccentricities, we who know him, make allowances
for 'em & get along with & like him, in our way - respect him as a negro - normal -
What he does & says, is told as what "a negro said" - weighed & accepted as such -
He is supposed to look at everything through narrow & distorted media, which
we all know & act accordingly - His love for the minuscule is admirable -
Magnifies everything - adds & multiplies never subtracts nor divides - fishes
snakes - high water, crops - crowds - especially ^{the wealthy} of his rich, white friends (L?)
whose patronage he would invoke - I never knew one to have a bad
"krap" - Naturally hates poor whites; red shacs, & plantation bells -
The first, is proof positive - of the social anomaly - that misery don't love, always
love company - the two latter, suggest slavery - & duty doing too plainly
(which) "His old Boss, wuz" worn - in - in - did n' know his folks when he
meets 'em in de road" - Takes pride, in having belonged to a "rich
whiteman" "bigger" & Devil an synonymous terms; so when he wishes
to derogate seriously, from his fellow - the most scathing, denunciations
he can pass on him - is, to call him "er nigger" "er gammie nigger!"
In the utterance of satire & philippic - laughs loud - sings well
& loves to do both - laughs all over his dear self, when he does laugh
& looks on the bright side of life generally - literally & liberally - optimistic
Endorses fully & uses practically the motto - "Dum vivimus vivamus"
Has an inherent respect - for all rich whitefolks - Is a good inoffensive
fellow - loves his old owners - & are attached to our former slaves -
Is liberal & kind hearted - & as far as he is able, - would help you
in distress, sooner, than the average white man! - & yet duplicity in
his nature! Has strong local attachments & veneration for the past; &
although his longest & best story, may be on events, that never transpired,
yet the artistic, superstitious tinge, is so blended in his narration of facts

+ fiction, or to elicit from us who know him best, an alternate smile & tear,
& make up, much of the deficit, in his otherwise, seemingly bad citizenship -
His impudence & lack of ambition, fit him in an admirable degree
for the humdrum, monotonous labor of farm life - south - Immigration
may achieve wonders for us socially, commercially - financially - but for our
Cotton fields - non-progressive & strictly agricultural septum - there is no labor
equal to the negro. He stands all alone, preeminently, without parallel or peer,
clearly master of the situation, & by large odds, the noblest Roman
in the field. Like his specialty - Cotton, he is an indigenous sun-plant
- nay - more, for he stands "de draft" better ["dati old Boss business"] & he
never has "er bad crop" so constitutionally, fitted by nature, habits, &
a life long training, in addition - A vade mecum of the Southern
farm - "as Nelson said unto David - thou art the very man"
Often - he imagines, he is tricked - You may suggest, Allopath homeopath -
or any other path - but he has a path of his own - knows "root & yerb"
Dr. who can give yr man, two & de go & fat, & beat im - all hollow - I ain no count Boss
& feel liggard & snakes & scorpions crawling bout in my flesh! I kan weck no more
till dishere spell is tuckes off'n me" she means - what he says - for he is whipped
& aint worth a cent - will die if a trick & conjure Dr. "don weck on im"
The naturally acid, is easily domesticated - Resembles the father of his Country -
His home is eternity - his residence Oration - It matters little - what immediate spot
may have been, the honored aspirant of his birth place - (unlike poor Homer)
he is at home any & everywhere - a few days sojourn, make him at home any
where he happens to live - By what species of ethics or equity - our social codes,
have up to date - failed to render a verdict - he seems to draw, by some mythical
mysticisms - magnetisms of adhesion or cohesive attractions, & holds by rights
of possession - very many - small articles - domestic - e.g. pint - eggs - tobacco - change
see - as lib. Failed to learn or utilize the grand moral of that ethical injunction
wh. suggests - with such unerring accuracy - the personal ownership of property -
known as - "Memento mori" - & when taunted, ever so respectfully (2) with the
suspected misdeemeanor - is highly incensed & aggrieved, & says - most feelingly - "Boss I is
spruzed at you - I never is been excused of nothing - fore now - & I live live
wid whifolk dis many year - I is - done for his word of theft -
I say - he like the Jew - was the "Chosen people". Veneration & piety are his
ruling traits - On seeing his first Steam boat - he looked on in mute
amazement as it moved off - like a thing of life - exclaimed - "Watch out God
all mighty - White man - mosse catch y' own"!! -

He tells & dwells, with heart-felt-pleasurable emotions of his Ante bellum days - way
 back, in Prof Callinas & old Fingermie, where, & where all was great, grand, gloomy &
 peculiar. his memory is filled with his childhood, he tells with fervor & feeling the dreams
 of his youth - his aspirations, his hopes - plays - sports & joys - But when he speaks
 of his love playally for ole. Masser & his folks - his heart fills, his voice chokes,
 & the tear comes unbidden - We catch the feeling & shed our tears too. because
 of truth, which elicits our tenderest emotions & kindest sympathies -
 He is, after all, a strange compound - like all else in life. mixed with good &
 bad. His case is a peculiar, and in some respects a sad one, He has been
 both well & mangled. I say educate & christianize him (if you can) for he
 needs it today more than the Chinaman - deal fairly with & make him our
 friend. "if Mr Harrison & Co - wont ^{take} "interest" our folks down here, we'll solve
 de problems - make krops - roast ^{take} ~~take~~ - sup bilte lasses - & have a long killing
 time wid ole big - der de some". At shenan passed, after the sundown, a crowd of negroes
 stood by ^{on} a closely curtained ambulance - asked, what in it? The driver, doubling
 a good fellow (for I saw this) said, "In here, my friends, - is the body of Mr Lincoln
 our late lamented", Would I old tell you, would I old, reproduce that scene -
 how they rushed, seized & covered it up to get one glimpse of the corpse of their
 Saviour & Redeemer! I tried, ^(but) was crowded out & failed to see him - (30 days dead)
 I noticed one dark skin, white man - newly Americanized of course - failed, ~~as did~~
 as did, Yes truly - to see him - But her beautiful expression of Christian
 emotion struck me - touched - nay wrought hugely, upon the great deep - of the
 better sinner man! for she screamed, fell back - clasped her hands - rolled her
 eyes - a la dying calf (not Kaltharion) ^(like) as if in a swoon - exclaiming most
 fervently & feelingly, "Blessed be God - Jesus Christ died for de white man
 "Amen Lucum fur de de black man!!" As I looked at her - I thought of
 the transmigration of souls - of the spirits of just men made perfect -
 & I said - Don't grieve for her - her ^{for} she is ready - & will soon be taken
 to Mars Abrahams bosom - to rest under the shade of the trees - all quiet
 & serene - begin, the beautiful banks of de Ohio -
 So mote it be - Amen - Thus ended the first lesson -

Sai de'ant = J. H. W.
 alias
 "Bent from Warren"