

George Fearing Hollis Papers

1852 - 1903

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Letter to the Cape Times



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Editor Cape Times. - Will you please publish ⁱⁿ ~~at~~ ^{the} ~~literature~~ ^{of} ~~it~~ ⁽ ~~pro~~ ~~per~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~following~~ ~~Chair~~ ~~man~~ ~~from~~ ~~an~~ ~~anonymous~~ ~~correspondent~~ ~~who~~ ~~has~~ ~~not~~ ~~the~~ ~~pleasure~~ ~~of~~ ~~a~~ ~~personal~~ ~~acquaintance~~ ~~with~~ ~~me~~ ~~and~~ ~~whom~~ ~~I~~ ~~can~~ ~~reach~~ ~~in~~ ~~no~~ ~~other~~ ~~way~~ ~~I~~ ~~am~~ ~~happy~~ ~~to~~ ~~assume~~ ~~the~~ ~~writer~~ ~~that~~ ~~several~~ ~~gentlemen~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~"Jubilee~~ ~~Singee"~~ ~~did~~ ~~attend~~ ~~the~~ ~~24th~~ ~~July~~ ~~celebration~~ ~~and~~ ~~did~~ ~~attend~~ ~~the~~ ~~levee~~ ~~later~~ ~~on~~ ~~making~~ ~~in~~ ~~both~~ ~~cases~~ ~~many~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~best~~ ~~social~~ ~~circles~~ ~~in~~ ~~this~~ ~~pleasant~~ ~~city~~ ~~which~~ ~~duply~~ ~~grieved~~ ~~to~~ ~~learn~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~writer's~~ ~~feelings~~ ~~were~~ ~~"outraged"~~ ~~it~~ ~~is~~ ~~hoped~~ ~~that~~ ~~he~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~H. S. Consul~~ ~~has~~ ~~in~~ ~~this~~ ~~found~~ ~~some~~ ~~of~~ ~~sorrow~~ ~~The~~ ~~Hon.~~ ~~Frederick~~ ~~Douglas~~ ~~a~~ ~~colored~~ ~~citizen~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~United~~ ~~States~~ ~~now~~ ~~Minister~~ ~~to~~ ~~Haiti~~ ~~might~~ ~~enlighten~~ ~~him~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~question~~ ~~of~~ ~~their~~ ~~being~~ ~~any~~ ~~"Black~~ ~~Ladies~~ ~~and~~ ~~Gentlemen~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~United~~ ~~States~~ ~~Finally~~ ~~the~~ ~~arrangement~~ ~~had~~ ~~my~~ ~~full~~ ~~approval~~ ~~the~~ ~~writer~~ ~~an~~ ~~American~~ ~~Citizen~~ ~~Geo. F. Hollis~~ ~~Cape Town~~ ~~S. A.~~ ~~July 5 - 1890~~

So the H. S. Consul, - sorrow. The Hon. Frederick Douglas, a colored citizen of the United States now Minister to Haiti, might enlighten him in the question of their being any "Black Ladies and Gentlemen in the United States. Finally, the arrangement had my full approval. The writer, an American Citizen, Geo. F. Hollis.

and as such wishing to identify himself with 4th Celebration yesterday was much astonished to learn that negroes were to be admitted to social equality and failed to see the good taste of such an arrangement preferred to absent. Born in the South and brought up in New York, his feelings were outraged by this proceeding utterly without precedent. Have not the pleasure of personal acquaintance with Capt Hollis, but should scarcely think that this was done with his full approval. It would be interesting to know if mizzers were received at the levee later on. We have no Black Ladies and Gentlemen in the States." Please return this to the Editor Geo. F. Hollis

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To the Editor of the Cape Times.

Had it not been for the heading ("Social Equality") you gave my reply to an anonymous correspondent, for which I take the liberty of administering a sound rebuke, the writer of the article in yesterday's "Times" might not have felt called upon to reply; for "American" takes no exception to anything contained in my brief reply to my anonymous friend, but raises the old shibboleth of "social equality" and "intermarriage of whites and blacks", which some ancient "christians" have always been brought forward by that party (I don't mean political) that likes to see the negro mixed with civil rights.

Pray, let one be permitted to be on civil and friendly terms with white, black or yellow without asking what our "intentions" are;

I am glad it is conceded that Mr. Douglass is a "brave man and a statesman"; and I have no doubt if he were to be sent to Cape Town as a High Commissioner of something and should give a lion, "American" would go and eat his cakers and perhaps drink his wine. At all events I know several ladies and gentlemen, who are proud of being citizens of the United States, who would go. It is possible that Mr. Douglass might think twice about returning all the calls made upon him.

This brings to my mind that when my late friend Judge Ruffin was appointed to the bench many of those brought before him complained of their feelings being outraged by his judicial interposition of their trespasses. I doubt, however, whether any one of them would have refused a social glass with the judge had he been so minded to ask them. However, I don't see whether all this has anything to do with the question of the citizens of the United States meeting together to celebrate their National day. {White and black
Can all unite and
praise of our Country