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*advised
8/23/13*

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August 21, 1913.

Hon. Woodrow Wilson,
President of the United States,
Washington, D.C.

Honorable President:-

As a lover of justice, and as a citizen jealous for the honor of my country, I feel. I must protest with all possible earnestness against the segregation of colored employees in the government departments of Washington. It is humiliation and disgrace which these loyal, American born citizens have done nothing to deserve, but leaving them out of the question, I think we may feel sure from the teachings of history that, in enforcing it, the white race will suffer the greater deterioration in character; and how, Sir, I may ask, is this disgraceful ruling to be harmonized with the constitutional amendments which assert the security of the negro race against unjust discriminations? It is surely a most sinister step toward the caste system which curses and hampers older countries, and a lamentable betrayal of democratic principles by a democratic administration. If caste is to be established, what classes are safe? and what becomes of our constitution, guarantees? I earnestly hope this dangerous path may be abandoned, I am,

Very truly,

Lavinia L. Dock R.N.