

TRIMBLE

Let's play some cards.

(Fade down SOLDIERS, lights up, WARD.)

WARD

When they put the word out they was allowing us to join up in the cavalry, negroes showed up in droves. But them white officers still didn't want nothing to do with it. They even approuched the "boy general", George Armstrong Custer...

(Black out WARD, lights up CUSTER.)

CUSTER

I don't want anything to do with it. Colored troops...they seem more suited to using shovels and hoes than muskets.

(Fadeup, WARD.)

WARD

Yeah, ole Custer didn't think much of the black man. As you can see.

CUSTER

I am in favor of elevating the Negro to the extent of his capacity and intelligence, and our doing everything to advance the race morally, mentally, physically...even socially. But I am opposed to making this advance by debasing any portion of the white race. As to trusting the Negro with the sacred responsibility of the right of suffrage...I should think of elevating an Indian Chief to the Popedom of Rome.

(Photo of Fort Riley, Custer's residence, etc.)

CUSTER

Capt. Benteen's wife, wrote him about the "brunettes" who we left guarding Fort Riley during the absence of the Seventh Cavalry. She said a more boisterous, undisciplined groups of creatures you won't find. (Laughs.) These Negroes use the parade ground as a playground, turning hand-springs all over the sprouting grass...disgraceful!.

(Lights down CUSTER, lights stay up on WARD.)