

8

the ground no more nohow, " says, "it is only just to save neck, that is all. Don't you know I know that that man never will come clear". He says, "why don't you just go ahead and make them feathers for me and for yourself and go ahead and ~~not~~ go back up the country if necessary. Make an affidavit and get hold of them feathers, and if you think it is wrong, go down there and change it. Conley made 5 or 6 changes, why can't you change them". I told him I would just be telling a lie, because I had never seen Conley in my life. "If I was to tell anything concerning Conley, I would be telling a story, because I have never seen him. " He says, "Is you going to do it?" Says, "Give me your hands". I says, "I will give you my hand. I am going to tell the truth".

So he left me, and Mr. Burns told me "Mr. Isom says that you are ready to tell the truth, and I am ready to talk with you". He called his stenographer and started off. When they got through dictating the matter he asked me, "What was you scared to talk about, why was you scared to talk? I thought you was going to tell me something, and here you come telling the same old story that was printed in the paper and we knowed all that before hand. Now, don't you know that you are scared of them city detectives. I know that every colored man in the South has got to be humble and stay in his place." Burns says to me, shaking his finger in my face, "You know something". This was after I had told him twice already and told Isom and told all of them up two or three different times during all the five days that I stayed there, that I didn't one thing in the world except what I know. He said I knowed something, and wouldn't tell him.

When I got ready to leave, Mr. Burns told me, shaking hands with me, that the only thing he regretted was, he had handled two hundred thousand colored men, since he had been in the detective business "and had never saw one what wouldnt tell the truth but you". I shaken his hand, and told him, "well, Mr. Burns, if I never see you no more, I hope some day that the Lord will show to you that I have told you the truth