

## LECTURES

SEASON 1876-'78:

The Coming Crusade,

To-day in Account with Yesterday,

"Out of the Strong-Sweetness,"

The Ben Adhemite Era,

Southern Humor.

FROM ALBION W. TOURGEE,

Author of Toinette, &amp;c.

-LATE-

JUDGE SUPERIOR COURT NORTH CAROLINA.

Raleigh  
GREENSBORO N. C.

June 2nd

1877

To His Excellency

Rutherford B. Hayes

President -

Sir:

I was sincerely gratified to read in the telegraphic reports of yesterday, that it was highly probable that your Excellency would recommend Congressional aid to a Southern Pacific Railroad - While I am aware is known here as a "Carpet-bagger" (having had the misfortune to be born in Ohio ~~of~~ quite without my consent) <sup>however</sup> and a very earnest and active Republican, I am still most heartily in favor of this project and this policy, at this time - I do not profess to be as wise as ~~a~~ <sup>great</sup> many, who enlighten us daily on the subject of the South, the finances and the future, but I have been a resident of this State since the hour the war closed, and have been an observer of national affairs, from a Southern Republican standpoint - As such, I am thoroughly convinced of the policy and propriety of Congressional aid to the building of a <sup>Southern</sup> railroad to the Pacific, at this time. For this, I assign, among others which might be named, the following reasons - viz -

- 1 - The Southwestern portion of the public domain which would be opened and benefited by such a road, is by far the most valuable portion of our unoccupied territory -
- 2 - The monopoly of a single line, which was the recipient of unexampled public favor is opposed to commercial interests, at either end of the line, and contrary to the genius of our people -

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3 - It is regarded by the Southern people as a choicest Royal and the exclusion of others from like favors tends to keep alive a spirit of sectionalism -

The building of the road would give  
4 - It gives an opportunity to Southern capitalists and politicians to make true their boasts and ~~will~~ <sup>allow</sup> the people of the South an opportunity to judge the <sup>desirability</sup> ~~truth~~ of their theories.

One who has never lived in the South, can hardly appreciate the sort of jealousy which exists ~~against~~ <sup>among</sup> the people here, towards the North on account of its great seaports. There is a sort of envious feeling that the South has always been wronged and oppressed or she would have had her great seaports cities, as well as the North. There is hardly a <sup>Southern</sup> State which does not cherish a dream which has been ~~subverted~~ <sup>subverted</sup> by ~~some~~ her most influential statesmen, that somewhere upon her Atlantic or Gulf Coast, is to be found the favored spot where the great seaports of the future is to be located - Virginia points to the noble harbor at Portsmouth and Norfolk and asks why the nations of the world do not rich its calm bosom, waiting for cargoes - A question which is very hard to answer and therefore is counted by the Virginians as Argument of an -

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answerable force. Three fourths of the voters of North Caro-  
 lina are as firmly rooted in the belief that Morehead City  
 (You probably never heard of the place) <sup>Mr. President</sup> would out rival New York  
 if it had a fair chance — South Carolina has Charle-  
 ton, Georgia Savannah, Florida, Jacksonville and  
 Pensacola, and Alabama, Mobile. Missis-  
 sippi, has not yet disclosed her metropol-  
 itan hope, or, if so, it is not known to me,  
 Louisiana has New Orleans, and Texas,  
 some half dozen good places for such an  
 experiment — I cite these instances to show the  
 universality of the idea, in the Southern mind, that  
 the cities and ports of the South have never  
 had a fair show. This oval will either con-  
 firm these theories by establishing one or more  
 entrepôts for goods and merchandise at  
 the South, for dissemination over this new  
 region or will thoroughly explode them — Either  
 result will be very beneficial to the nation —

While the South, as a section, may not be so benefited to the extent anticipated its moral condition and temper will ultimately be greatly improved thereby -

5- The fields for enterprise opened by it, will lead to the settlement of large numbers of northern men upon our Southwestern border - The mingling of this element with the Southern and foreign populations, <sup>there</sup> will, in its results, be most healthful, and will tend not a little, in the future to a solution of the evils which now afflict us -

These results will not all be immediate - You will allow me to say that, in my opinion, all these will be elements in the solution of the problem of pacification a generation hence. You will perceive that I do not believe in the idea of immediate ~~or speedy~~ pacification of the ~~sections~~ <sup>and the speedy obliteration of sectional hostility</sup> but I regard it as a result to be none the less wisely and persistently ~~sought after~~ <sup>striven for</sup> and desired, <sup>fervently.</sup>

I do not ~~know~~ <sup>perhaps</sup> but I ought to beg pardon for the intrusion of ~~my~~ <sup>these thoughts</sup> upon your Excellency, but supposing that even a carter-bugger may be allowed to say "Amen", I have only the honor to subscribe myself  
 Your obt. Servt. - A. W. Tourgee

-Over-

P.S. - Being a carpet-buyer on account of  
my place of birth and therefore prima  
facie a conductor, your Excellency  
will probably suppose this letter written  
from personal motives & I therefore beg leave  
to say that I have no interest ~~now or in~~  
note, ~~vested or contingent~~ in any Southern  
Pacific Road or any connecting line and  
have no expectation of being <sup>personally</sup> benefited thereby  
to the extent of a ~~thousandth part of a~~  
cent &

<sup>however</sup>  
Fearing that the presumption of common hon-  
esty may not lie, in favor of ~~me~~ <sup>a carpet-buyer</sup> ~~in this~~  
~~case~~ ~~now~~ ~~vested~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~note~~, I beg to add, that  
I am not ~~personally~~ interested, presently or  
prospectively, in ~~the~~ ~~any~~ ~~for~~ any Southern Pacific  
route or any connecting road. I write this  
merely because I have long been impressed  
with the soundness of ~~each~~ <sup>the</sup> policy & it is inti-  
mated that you will pursue &