

Hillsboro, 22 June 1887.

Dear Judge:

As I sit down to write to you the first thought that occurs to me is the prophetic reply you made to Judge Keen at Chatham Superior Court, when in the argument of a cause the other members of the Bar were designated by the Judge as Bro Manning, Bro. Moring, and even Bro. York, while you were simply called "Tougee"! Rising to address the Court, you expressed your profound gratification that you had, like Byron, "awoke this morning and found yourself famous" at least in the eyes of the Court. That fame was defined to be: where a single expression, such as Caesar, Napoleon, Charlemagne, Cromwell, Washington, called to the mind the deeds of an individual or the events of a period: That happy were you, when such eminent lawyers as Messrs Manning, Moring, York, were ^{only} called Bro. so & so, you had acquired

The proud eminence of being distinguished by the single term "Foujee". The ample apology of the Judge followed as a matter of course, But really, after reading the many notices of you and your books, especially "The Foot's Errand", which appeared all over the Country in the Spring of 1880; and feeling that the scales in the last election were in a great measure turned by the impression made upon the Northern mind by that picture of Southern politics and methods - I could not help remembering your reply to Judge Keen and the amount of prophecy contained in it. True, you did not awake that morning and find yourself famous, but it was not long afterwards that you did.

Well, I enjoyed your books immensely, only that sometimes "between the lines" I would be living over again that sad, sad pathos so truly painted: and no one who lives with you through those dark days of 1869-70, when to be a republican was to be outlawed from society & sometimes from existence itself can ever revert to those days without a feeling of extreme sadness.

How well you could have pictured that trial of Nelson Morrow for burn-burning, when you who presided and I who defended went before the public with our lives in our hands. Every ruling, every question, every utterance watched & weighed by an enraged crowd thirsting for his blood and for the blood of any who would shield him. And yet you by your fairness, firmness and decision just saved that poor negro. I heard from him lately; he is living in Wilson and doing well.

I don't suppose you will ever forget the term when the Blalock murderers were tried, and Lutterloh was acquitted: - how you persuaded me to postpone or remove his trial. And I refused upon the ground that the moment you continued or removed it, neither his life nor yours would be safe an hour. And don't you recollect that I was right and you were wrong - that I acquitted him to the satisfaction of every body! And I take no small degree of credit to myself for pursuing that course, for had I followed yours, "The Foot's Errand" might

have ended right there!!

But these matters I did not sit down to write about, and yet they recur so vividly to my memory that I can not help mentioning them: Now to business!

"The birds say", "Madam Rumor says", Holden says that "Young has influence with the administration & for one, am glad to hear it. Young should have influence with the adm^t. Who regrets that in the fight for the Raleigh office the "Gallilean conqueror"? If Holden had ever shown any disposition to deal justly by those to whom he owed a great deal, I should have felt sorry for him; but I hear his defeat will be likely to drive him back into the Democratic camp.

There is another whom I wish to see "the Gallilean conqueror" - J. J. Young - Col^l of the 4th St C Dist since - when? Young has used his office solely for his own benefit; & while it is the greatest office in N.C. in a political sense, carrying with it greater patronage than the office of Governor, yet in his hands it has been

powerless for good to the Republican party.

What influence has Young exercised, save only for personal ends? Who has any confidence in Young anyway? True, he is smooth, but he is not a wise politician; he is wordy and windy, good on a joke, excellent at repartee; but who was ever converted from the error of "boulton" ways under Young's political preaching?

And then mark his injustice to the Counties of Orange & Chatham, two of the largest Counties in his Dist - Orange paying more revenue than all the others - No prominent Republican in either County has been recognized by him.

In Chatham, "his sisters & his cousins and his Aunts", and even "his wife's half-sister's son" have been sent up from Granville & elsewhere to possess & occupy the land! while those who bore the burden and heat of the day in Chatham politics were treated as though they had no rights that Young was bound to consider, and in consequence Chatham which is naturally

a Republican County, goes democratic.
Take Orange for instance, paying the largest
tax (int. rev.) of any County in the State: & the
Collectorship at Durham he first appointed
a Democrat, Eugene Murrehead! - he then removed
him to make a place and remove from his
path of reappointment to the Collectorship, Geo
Nichols of Wake - an excellent man, a good
appointment but made from the wrong locality and
for a selfish reason. Then Nichols resigns & takes
the P.O. at Raleigh, and forthwith Jas Young, called,
a reputed son of the Col., is sent to Durham;
and now I am informed that lately the Court, Rouse,
has ordered Young to remove from office Geo Bells,
Deputy Col^r for Granville, and Young has asked
for permission to transfer him to Durham.
And all this in the face of the fact that an Orange
County man is anxious for the place, a man
who has worked harder for the party, and stood
more for his principles, than Young ever did!!
And thus the leading Republicans of Orange
Chatham and other Counties have been insulted
by this lording; and I am satisfied that
the growth of the party in these Counties has

been retarded by keeping such jackdaws in
power & place. Let Mr Garfield strip their plum
of office from them, and he will deserve and
receive the thanks of all.

The President need not go far to find a man
who will make a better officer; - there is our
old friend Shaffer, a man of fine business
capacity, correct to a dot in every way,
a good party manager, and such a man
as any President might be glad to appoint
to any place. I feel satisfied that his appoint-
ment would give general satisfaction to all parties
and especially to the Republicans. To be sure,
Young would raise the old cry of "carpet-bagging"
but it has lost its significance when such
men as Shaffer are sought to be injured.

He has been amongst us long enough to be
known by us, his every interest is identified
with ours, his brain & energy are fully recognized,
and his appointment would be first class! A. N. L.

For political reasons too, Young should be removed.
He is one of those who believe that the Rep. party
is composed of Conkling, himself and their
followers; and as one of the "306" he will

return to the Convention of 1884 with the pets
under him to shout for Corbin & deny Garfield.
Will you do the Reps of the State the favor of intermingling
yourself in the removal of Young and the appt of
Shaffer. If in any way you have the ear of the
admt- shout into it that we demand Young's removal!
I earnestly hope you will move at once in this matter,
If the President has that confidence in you,
which your services and abilities entitle you
to, will you, knowing personally as you do,
Young's unfitness, neglect your duty in this
matter? You have not failed yet in any duty
you have been called upon to perform, even in the
face of imminent personal risk, and I can not
suppose that in these "piping times of peace" when good
fortune has so broadly smiled upon you, that you will
neglect it now. All are well & send love to you. I am still
practicing law, but we haven't much law to speak of; - not enough
to prevent me taking any good place that might be offered me
Good bye. Attend to Young - let me hear from you -
believe me
Your old friend, J. W. Thayer