

ALBION W. TOURGEE,

MAYVILLE,

Chautauqua County, - N. Y.

Sept. 28

1887-

My dear Sir; I do not wonder, after reading your letter, that Nixon sent you to me, as he knows very well, how nearly our ideas upon this subject agree. I have often thought of making this the subject of a story, and have been deterred from doing chiefly by three considerations:

- 1- The lack of actual, reliable knowledge of the extent and character of Black-hitting itself. Of course, I fully comprehend the general facts as you state them - but the specific cases, instances, individuals - these I lack and you must know that it is the individual - the concrete

and not the abstract, that moves the popular heart — on any other matter, for that matter. I would like to know, too, to what extent black-listing prevails in other businesses. Does the Pullman Service black-list to the railroads?

2 - Another reason for not making use of this feature atrocious as it is, is the unpleasant and troublesome likeness it bears to the boycotting methods of the Trade associations. This affords a too evident rejoinder and if one ~~states~~ strikes both, as he probably ought, each side of the matter gets up its dudgion and the entire effect is lost. You see Deylla is upon one hand and Charybdis upon the other — and between the two it is hard to steer. As yet I have not learned the currents.

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I — I have also been deterred by the apprehension you express of a great social convulsion — which I do not wish to promote and do not yet see how to prevent. It seems to me that the tendencies on all sides, are towards such revolution. I do not say this from any fear of anarchistic tendencies among the American people, but from a feeling which I find or believe to be fearfully prevalent among our masses — not laborers for hire merely nor specifically so — but especially among moderate estate self-employed of moderate means, — that our civilization is unshakably favorable to aggregated and combined capital.

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I confess that I sometimes feel afraid to strike a blow in the direction of material improvement of these things, lest I should drop a spark into a magazine whose explosion may overwhelm the good and bend together rather than merely eradicate the bad.

I shall be glad to hear any suggestions you may wish to make or to confer with you at any time it may be feasible upon the matter.

Sincerely Yours

Albion W. Tourgee