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To Mr. Albion W. Tourgee

Mayville N. Y.

In reply to yours of

Marshall, Texas, Jan 4 1891

My dear Sir:-

I have just finished reading the Bystander's notes in the Inter Ocean for Dec. 30. and I feel like shaking hands with you.

I am a Negro and as we have felt that the whole government was trying to sit down upon us, it is a real God-send to find a man like you with stamina enough to speak the truth though the heavens fall.

Legislation, Colormania, Corporations and the Devil are all in league against us, and if my race had half the daring of the Indian, something would happen but as it is they meekly submit to what your house dog would resent, and trustingly look forward to the millennial day when their Messiah, the Republican Government will come to finish this work of emancipation begun in 1863.

The brutal, yea, ultra-brutal atrocities of this Sunny South-land will never be

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published, for they would read so like a romance no one so far away as you are, would give them credence.

There is a cloud that hangs like a pall over every possible avenue that opens to us any possible competence than menial labor, and an armed force that stands ready at a moment's notice to emphasize every clause of the unwritten Ku Klux Code.

To assert our rights as freemen means a telegram to every militia organization in the south to kill all Negroes at sight and the white caps bringing up a prompt second.

Of course our Glorious Government will see to those small matters when the matters of importance are off the calendar but it interferes a little with our family relations to have several thousands of our best men murdered every year while waiting for our guardian to assume responsibilities.

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It is true that only two of my family have been killed, but think of the poor unfortunates that left no one to tell the tale!

We do indeed have a great country; there is none other like unto it.

My very dear Sir, if we cannot see you we will read your books, read your articles and will pray for you and trust that God may give a few more such men with consciousness conscience enough to cry against wrong though it be in the King's house.

Yours gratefully.

Alfred O. Coffin