

Chicago Ills Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 1891

Mr Albion W. Tourgee

Dear Sir

Having been a constant reader of your notes in the Inter Ocean for more than a year, and having been employing my leisure hours for four years in writing a History of my Race to be published this year I have been searching for the following information and have not found it the names of States prior to 1861 that gave Free Negroes the right to vote, when given them and what provisions were made by which Negroes could be Freed. I have found it about N. C. & Tenn but in others and I would say that any other information of Negroes rights according to State Constitutions that you have, and will give me in aid on my work, Past, Present and future of the Negro<sup>s</sup> will be thankfully received your humble servant Jas E Bick 105-22<sup>nd</sup> St

Chicago Ills.

I refer you to Ald F. C. Verling, E. G. Kille  
Judge Eugene Gary or Dr V. C. Price for any  
information as to myself that you may desire.