

Manhattan, Kans.

January 24, 1890.

My dear Mr. Tourgee:-

An attack was made upon my race a few weeks ago by one Mr. A. B. Kimball. He asserts that the Negro is not susceptible to the highest mental endowment and is only fitted for mechanical work and is not capable of self government.

I propose to refute this argument and am now preparing a paper to be read ^{in March} before the Wيرانو Spear Dist. Teachers' Ass'n.

Being still in my twenties I have experienced but little in this world and am not well posted on the "Race Problem". I therefore write to ask your opinion with regard to the above ^{declarations} ~~to facts~~ and also your opinion with regard to our

"Ancient History"

Don't you think we, ^(in America) are direct descendants of the Ancient Ethiopians who were once civilized, built cities, and invaded northern Africa? and that our origin and civilization might be traced ^{even} to the land of the Pharaohs?

I am sorry to trouble you Mr. Tangee but not yet having time to read or trace any voluminous work in history, on this topic (and by the way won't you please inform me which is the most reliable works in history I can read on this subject) I must, of course, consult those who have.

The text book, I studied, on general history does not accord to the Negro ^{race}, a single civilization. An early reply will greatly oblige.

Yours very truly,

Eli C. Freeman.

P.S.

We have organized a Literary and Protective Club and are accumulating funds with which to test the infamous separate car law of Louisiana and Mississippi. yours - E. C. F.