

Copy

Mayville, N.Y.
Feb. 19th 1891

John W. Biffle Esq.

Dear Sir:

I would be very glad to gratify your natural curiosity in regard to the woman of whom I spoke, but I do not suppose she would like to have public attention directed to her in that way,--do you?

It was a thorough knowledge of this feeling of injustice and unfairness, growing more and more intense as the colored man grows more and more educated and more fully conscious of his powers that induced me to write "Pactolus Prime," of which book this sentiment is the motive.

Yours truly,

Albion W. Tourgee.

P.S. I have never found it necessary to study a man's handwriting to determine the color of his skin, since I have only the same truth to utter regardless of the character or color of the hearer. Whether a correspondent is or is not what he represents himself to be, is a matter of no consequence except to himself. I have nothing to say to a colored man that I would not say to a white one, and nothing to say to a white one I am not willing a colored man should hear. So, too, I have nothing to say to a laborer which I am not equally willing a capitalist should know. Others may wear two faces if they choose; I have but one tongue and my pen tells but one story.

A.W.T.