

Alexandria S.D. Mo. 9th 1891

Wm. Albion W. Tourgee

Rayville N.Y. }

Dear Sir

I have taken the "Inter Ocean" for a good many years, and have been an interested reader of the articles, published by them from your able pen. Your Championship for justice to the colored race has met with the approval of all good men, everywhere. You have sown the seed which in due time will bear fruit in the hearts of men resulting in action.

I write this to let you know how the people feel in this Country "e" the farming class. I was a soldier for three years, was with Rosecrans Sherman & Grant from Cincinnati to the Sea & through the Carolinas. Since the war I have been a farmer. We are a family of seven and with the majority of farmers in this Country are steadily progressing backward. And why? is it because we do not work, no for we work early and late. Is it because we are over

V

extravagant, No. We dress in plain apparel and go without many of the ordinary comforts of life.

Why, because we pay from 1 to 2 per cent. a month for money, payable quarterly in advance, in drought, cyclone, hail storm or blizzard. It all goes on.

Now dear old Comrade I believe that you stood with us those two days at Chickamauga and witnessed a brave fight.

We lost a good many thousand men there, but inflicted a severe blow to our enemy. Though they won the field, but we had help coming, then, in the grand old armies of Sherman & Hooker which helped us to win a glorious victory at Look out Mt. & Mission Ridge.

Now our farmers find ourselves confronted by a combination of men, with great financial resources at their head desiring combinations & trusts and now what are we going to do. Does either of the two old parties propose any plan to give us relief in the way of cheap money or low rates of interest? Please tell me.

3

I have failed to see it. The rate on wheat to Chicago from Mitchell on 27^c per hundred or $\$97\frac{20}{100}$ for a car on a two days run. If the Government run the B.R. at cost it would have been but 1/2 of that amount a saving to me this year on my crops of over \$12000. Something of this sort would relieve the Agricultural Classes and we could see it. But we have no magnifying glass large enough to see the amount of dollars and cents that will give us any relief through the McKinley Bill although it is well enough in its place. And it seems to me that if the Republican Party calculate to continue to go against any legislation in favor of cheap money and in favor of the Goulds or Vanderbills controlling our great national thoroughfares and build up the hope of winning our votes by Tariff legislation. We will be wonderfully left at the next election.

It seems to me that if all men
 were created equal, these different
 classes would have a fair share,
 but they have not. Some have
 transcendent abilities, and a
 combination of such talent
 can only successfully be met
 by the combination of the masses.
 Give us wisdom to decide
 this thing aright. I should
 like to see some article from
 you, in the Inter Ocean, upon
 the situation as viewed by some
 of us farmers.

yours truly

C. L. Holbrook

Alexandria

Hanson Co

S. W.