

Lexington Ill. March 26 - 1891
Albion W. Tourgee

Freyville N. Y.

Dear Sir Having been an
interested and profited reader of "A Bystander's
Notes" from the commencement of their publication
I feel like giving you a cordial hand shake
and offering a word of encouragement and also
a few suggestions apropos of the "Notes" in last
issue of the I.C.

No Stauncher patriot could bring
read your Notes without being impressed with
the familiar knowledge of most of the subjects
discussed and the evident sincerity of purpose
displayed by the writer although he would
probably feel compelled to dissent from some of
his views

I have felt a deep interest in the
discussion of social and political conditions
at the South although only tolerably well
informed as to the facts and was also pleased
at your stand on the former question being
a farmer myself. Now while realizing

that my opportunities for the study of the agricultural problem are limited. I am a tolerably close observer and wish to state some of the facts in relation to this question as I see them speaking only for this part of this state.

Is farming unprofitable here and are the farmers disheartened and if so why?

Farming pays here when it is done intelligently and energetically. Like all kinds of business with which I am acquainted it don't run its self and pay a big interest on the investment.

When it fails to pay it is through neglect or fault.

If the proper kinds of crops can be legislated on to our land the proper kinds of stock in our fields. The acreage out of our barnyards, our stock and tools provided with shelter and all our property furnished intelligent care our business systemized so we may know what pays and handle it and what don't pay and drop it, if we can be legislated off the dry goods boxes and into our farms and induced to study and attend to our business then legislation is what we must need. If not whatever will bring about this condition of affairs will contribute most to our prosperity.

The "professional farmers friends" (too often as I fear for revenue and) will not find much encouragement forthcoming from the masses of intelligent farmers in central Illinois. We realize the imperative need of some legislation in our behalf and rather in behalf of justice but are by no means ready to advocate the infliction of injustice on others for our benefit.

The backbone of our farmer population will never join the "Farmers movement" until they (its leaders) drop such nonsense as "free currency", "two percent loans" etc.,

A small minority of the "farmers" are making or being majority of the noise about the terrible condition of our agricultural interests and the awful dome curving us of relief is not immediately forthcoming from the halls of legislation.

We are behind the times in our methods of conducting our business but we are all right in our intentions and will get our rights in time without undertaking to completely upset the existing order of things in order to experiment with the pet schemes of our "professional" friends. Good speed you,
H. Knight Lexington Ill.