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Ridgway, Pa., July 23, 1891.

Hon. Albion W. Tourgee,
Mayville, N. Y.

My Dear Sir:-- I this day received yours of 20th inst. and note what you say in regard to Lay-electoral and General Conference work. Your suggestions in reference to having the Lay Conference meet annually, comes as a new thought to me and one which, as a first impression, strikes me very favorably. One objection which suggests itself to my mind is, that if too many of the lay brethern get on the ground this Lay Conference may be converted into a body of wire pullers ^{or church politicians} who will spend their time in seeking to influence the appointment of preachers throughout the Conference and thus sow seeds of dissension. Perhaps there is nothing in this idea of mine, and, if there is not, I believe the meeting of the laymen with the ministers will have a wholesome effect on both classes. The delegate would have his ideas brightened in reference to church work and would receive an inspiration which would have a good effect upon the individual church represented by him.

I think we are thoroughly in harmony on the General Conference question, and the more I think of it the more I would like to see you represent us there. Those with whom I have conferred thus far, approve your candidacy, and I shall bring the matter before our Quarterly Conference next week and before our District Conference early in August. I am sorry that you will not be at the meeting of the lay delegates. There is always an inspiration in having the candidate present; but I think our forces will be strong enough to enable us to triumph.

It would afford me pleasure to nominate you, and unless something now unknown should prevent I will be on the ground to give the matter attention.

In reference to "John Heckerman's Candidate" I would remark that the manuscript, with some slight alterations, was sent to Chas. Scribner's Sons on the 8th inst., since which time I have not heard from them except receiving a formal note acknowledging receipt of the same &c.

Yours very respectfully,

N. T. Arnold