

409 5th St ne  
Washington D. C. July 27 1891

A. W. Bourgee Esq  
Mayville N.Y.

My dear Mr Bourgee, I personally want to thank you for giving to the American people Pactosus Prime which I have read eagerly as I do all your writings. I think Pactosus Prime is written in your happiest vein and that it will make the people of your race, think on the great wrongs they have done to my race in all the years we have labored and suffered in our weakness and ignorance. God has called you especially to plead at the bar of American public opinion, for justice to a "nation scattered and peeled to a people terrible from their beginning hitherto; a nation huddled out and trampled down whose land the rivers have spoiled!"

Many years ago I met you in the lobby of the Revere House Boston, I was then quite a youngster and had wandered east in quest of employment to enable me to care for my dear old invalid mother, whose health had been destroyed by exposure and the brutality of the southern task master

To colored service and for whose  
benefit she had given the best  
years of her life as a slave, and  
in return received no recompense  
save ill health and bodily afflictions.  
Dicks without show - no. A fool's

Edwards had just been issued from  
the press and you were making  
political speeches - your name was  
in every man's mouth certainly in  
the mouth of every Negro who could  
read. You were pointed out to me  
by extor Rich and I came over  
where you sat and introduced myself  
and asked for your autograph you  
took my little blank book and wrote  
"make the spelling book the scepter  
of national power - W. D. P. Dicks".

I have that sentiment and autograph  
pasted on the first page of my book  
book and prize it more than you can  
ever know. I didn't know much  
then I don't know as much as I  
ought to know now but I am still  
struggling to make a place for myself  
in the domain of intellect and doing  
all <sup>year</sup> in my weak way to make the spelling  
book the scepter of national power.

I am self taught, never had any  
advantages. have always been and am  
now anxious to do something to advance

the interests of my race) and I have  
 an abiding faith in the promises of  
 our dear Lord and in the future of my  
 race, "The meek shall inherit the earth,"  
 we have the patience and the courage to  
 wait for the coming of the morning - to  
 bide our time to suffer continually  
 and we are magnanimous enough  
 to write our "benefits in marble and  
 our injuries in dust" I thank God  
 that he has given us such a man  
 as you to speak for us, and I earnestly  
 hope and pray that your days may be  
 long in the land and that you may  
 see the realization of your dreams  
 and hopes.

For right is right since God is God  
 And right the day must win  
 No doubt would be disloyalty  
 No factor would be sin.

I send you one of my little pamphlets  
 which I trust you will do me the honor  
 to read also a sketch of my life - If I was  
 able I would like to have all of your  
 published books I am going to review  
 Pardon, please for my syndicate letter and will  
 be glad to do whatever I can to increase its  
 sale. I lack to a large constituency every  
 week.

Respectfully yours,

Ed Bruce