

F. L. BARNETT. S. LAING WILLIAMS.
Barnett & Williams,
LAWYERS,
SUITE 4. 180 CLARK ST.
Pension Claims Prosecuted.

Chicago, Sept 12 1891.

Hon. Albion W. Tourgee,
Mayville, New York,

Dear Sir:-

It has given me pleasure to read your kind and inspiring utterances on the subjects of vital interest to the colored race. I have long considered you one of our best friends, and most fortunately for us, a friend with power to do what his heart ~~wishes~~ wills. Your letters are largely read by my people and all that you say, is by them, most thoughtfully considered.

Your notes of this day's issue of the Inter-Ocean treat with friendly severity, a failing which is a matter of regret to every thoughtful colored man. I do not concede that the race is entirely devoid of gratitude, although I must admit that our evidences of gratitude are too few. In your kindness of heart you make the best of excuses that can be offered, and at the same time remind us of a duty in which, I am sorry to say, we have been remiss.

The purpose of this letter is to take exception to a statement made by you, not for the sake of argument, but because the statement, being so direct and being so widely read in Chicago, places me in a very uncomfortable light. In the Spring of 1889, I saw in the Inter-Ocean account of the distress of Rev. Calvin Fairbank. I at once ~~wrote~~ wrote to him for authority to raise a purse for him.

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He granted me the permission, and I at once went to work. A few personal friends were enlisted and a concert given from which Seventy-seven Dollars were realized. A few dollars more were added, making the purse about Eighty Dollars and sent to him. He acknowledged the receipt, so that we know he received it.

In your letter this morning, after speaking of the terrible sufferings of Rev. Calvin Fairbanks, you say:

"As yet not a single one of the newspapers edited by colored men has taken any pains to inform its readers of this most remarkable fact in the history of their race."

You can see that this statement made by a friend and neighbor of Mr. Fairbanks' will certainly cause the contributors to that Fairbanks' Fund to wonder if the money ever reached him. I was then, as now, editor of The CONSERVATOR, and the fund was raised entirely on statements made in THE CONSERVATOR. If, therefore, it be true that "not a single one of the newspapers edited by colored men" has done anything for Mr. Fairbanks, Chicago people will conclude that benefit was a swindle.

I know that you would not intentionally do any one an injustice, so I write this information to use as you see fit. If you write to Mr. Fairbanks, he will doubtless confirm what I have said. I regret to say that I have misplaced Mr. Fairbanks' acknowledge-

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ment of the money, or I would send it to you. I enclose two copies of THE CONSERVATOR of that time announcing the benefit. I also send a CONSERVATOR of this date referring to your notes of last Saturday, with the hope that the villianous proof reading will not give you the horrors.

Let me thank you again for the invaluable aid you are rendering my race. Please do not conclude that gratitude finds no abiding place in our hearts. If you could know how gratefully we regard your interest in us and how we appreciate your efforts in our behalf, you would be slow to write us down as a race of ingrates.

I have been editor of THE CONSERVATOR twelve years and that experience teaches me while tangible evidence of our regard may be few, our hearts are grateful nevertheless.

Very Respectfully,

A. L. Barnett.

*For reference as to my standing in
the community, I took pleasure
in referring to Mr Wilson and
Dr Hohlman of the Western Ocean.
A. L. B.*