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Chicago, Ill., October 14, 1891.

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

Dear Sir:- So continuously are your voice and pen raised in defense of the race with which I am identified that I feel as if to write to you on any topic affecting myself as an individual is but to steal your time from a work affecting the whole of the Negro race.

But you will please pardon me, Sir, for the question is regarding life work and is quite a difficult one for me to settle.

There are three professions I wish to ask your opinion about, either of which I think I can master: law, theology and medicine. My liking for these is in the order in which they are given.

Now I write to ascertain your opinion with regard the legal profession for a colored man and as to whether he can subserve the interest of his race as well in this profession as in the ministry or in the practice of medicine. What difficulties would he have to surmount in order to succeed. Does not the study of law lead to a better understanding of the fundamental principles of government?

Should your reply, as to the study of law be favorable won't you please outline a preliminary course of reading for me as I probably shall not get a chance to attend a law school within twelve

months.

My native home is Louisiana, you perhaps remember. Am twenty eight years of age and a graduate from the classical dept of Straight University, New Orleans. Am directly from Kansas here and will, quite likely, sojourn in this city a month or so.

Mr. Martinet of New Orleans informs me that the Citizens Committee has employed you as the principle attorney in the separate car suit. I am glad of this I can assure you, Mr. Dougee. The whole race I feel safe to state will be pleased of the choice. Our little Protective-Literary-Association at Manhattan Kansas of which I have the honor to be president has already pledged its financial and moral aid to the cause and has contributed the nice little sum of over \$20⁰⁰.

Thanking you for the interest manifested in the welfare of my race, I beg to remain
Very truly yours,

Eli C. Freeman
#240 Wabash Ave
Chicago, Ill.