

768 Florida St., Phila
Jan 11th 1872

Dear Mr. Surgee,

I am afraid that you must have a very poor idea of my faithfulness to pledges made. You will remember, perhaps that I last wrote from Washington and that I asked your advice about writing up the movement for the A. M. E. Review. To take up the thread, then, at that place: I found, on reaching home, that it was too late to get a placing in this quarter's issue of the Review. While I was looking around for another fitting medium, the dreaded grip laid hold of me, and after me other members of my house-

hold, so that I have not been able to attend properly even to my daily work, for the last month.

You will excuse this recital of affairs purely personal; but, I want you to understand that my enthusiasm did not evaporate in the first burst. The thought of the movement is always with me, and I put in a stroke for it wherever I can find the opportunity. As I have already told you, I brought the matter before a number in Washington, some of whom have communicated with you by this time. I have also interested some bright and active friends in Boston and they have promised to write to you. Some Philadelphia friends, I think, have written to you, also.

My aim has been quality more than quantity and I have tried to attract those who can give positive help, either from head or pocket, when the time for action comes. On a separate slip I send some names and addresses (I have given away all my printed slips) I intended to begin the new year by sending to you a little donation of money which I had set aside for this purpose; but the recent sickness and trouble at home makes it impossible now to take from a purse never very full, at best. That I enclose (\$1.00) will at least defray the postage for the names enclosed, and some others. When I can, I will carry out my frustrated intention.

Now as to the questions asked in your first letter:

1. I am 30 years of age
2. I was taught in an institution in this city, under Quaker management, known as the Institute for Colored Youth
3. For several years I taught a grammar grade in one of the public schools; but since 1874 I have earned my living entirely by writing. In the Phila. Press I edit a department — one like "Complications" in the Inter Ocean — and I also have a dept. in the children's periodical, Golden Days. I have given some attention lately to the writing of special articles, though perhaps there is already too great a glut on the market. I have been given a little showing, however — enough to make me persevere. It may, perhaps, interest you to know that I have been appointed one of a number of

representative women of Pennsylvania, who are to act as an auxiliary body in helping on the work of the State Commission for the Columbian Exposition.

I am the only colored woman in that body and I represent the interests of my people.

Have you formed any plan as to methods in regard to the N. B. A. What is to be done? Lord! These two queries meet me at every turn.

I think when we have a definite plan of work we will gather in a great many who are willing to help, but who like the famous gentleman of antiquity, Thomas à Kempis, must actually lay their hands upon the spade before they believe.

I think I have answered all points. The fact

that you asked me is of course
an excuse for speaking so
much of self.

I hope, dear Mr. Bourque,
that this new year may hold for
you the realization of much that
is good, that all along the lines
of work you may meet a grateful
fruition, and that you and yours
may have happiness and health.

Yours very sincerely
and
Florence A. Lewis.