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Albion W. Tourgee Esq.
Mayville N.Y.

Dear Sir: In "the Basis" of the 29 ult. You referred to several colored editors who are indulging in ill-natured little flings upon the hypothesis that colored people will subscribe for "the Basis" instead of what are termed race papers. As far as my part I think every colored journal in the United States should hail with delight the establishment of the Basis.

The Basis will reach a great body of readers ~~that~~ who have never heard of our race papers. One thing which has hampered the cause of the freedman is the lack of an audience. In our conventions and newspapers we pass resolutions & make our complaints which never get a hearing ~~before~~ ~~the~~ outside of the race. The Basis will really help to give us an audience.

The Basis is laying before the American people the latest development of American cruelty toward the Negro. Mob law - When we take into account the criminal cowardice of the pulpit & the manifest indifference of so many religious papers as to this issue

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When, too, these outrages are apologized for by a bishop in the N.E. Church, South, on the plea of "emotional insanity". Also when the president of the Christian Endeavor forgets the injustice to the Negro in his own country, ~~but~~ crosses the Atlantic & complains with holy indignation of the barbarities against the Americans, while all these things are so it is refreshing to find in the Basis a paper which will report our cause aright to the unsatisfied.

~~Hope~~ The Basis will have a large colored support thru the country ~~over~~ over. It should be in every colored college, colored school & colored church. Some of the bishops in my own church are giving it their hearty endorsement, notably Bishop Benj. T. Tanner who recommended it to all of his conferences, and I am sure that all the Bishops in the A.M.E. Church will sympathize with the cause in Basis in its ideals.

I am none the less a believer in "race papers". They need support & will get it, if they deserve it, as many of them really do.

If this will be of any
value to you in the Basis
you may use it.

~~Yrs truly - John Q. Johnson~~

Pastor A.M.E. Church
Princeton N.J.