

Ed. Tribune -

In your Daily review
today. I find a copy - as called
~~of a letter~~ of a letter sent by me to Gen. Abbott
U. S. Senator from this state. The let-
ter was a private one - written under
the excitement ^{occasioned by senator} of Stephens murder and
which I have never consented either
to its publication or circulation - and
~~such publication was an outrage.~~

I might have endeavored this how-
ever, had the letter been published
correctly - I have not the published
copy before me, but noticed in its
hasty perusal, the following errors
~~either of its transcribing or its~~
probably made either in transcrib-
ing or in "setting up".

1st Instead of "14 arrows" I wrote
"4 arrows"

2 - Instead of "Four Thousand or
5,000 horses expended" I
wrote "Four Hundred or
500" - This would be evident

from my aggregate statement
of crimes which I believe to
have been committed by the
Kullup in the District
are thousand (1000)

This is my estimate including of course all violations of the dominion - I have frequently stated it and ~~will~~ still believe it - My estimate of there is made from conversation with citizens in different counties and from the number of complaints made by parties wronged -

3 - I think in ~~your~~ ^{my} the letter I state that there had been ~~13~~ "Thirteen (13) murders in the district" - ~~and~~ ^{It should be} - ~~death account~~ "in the state" as I include Jones county which is not in any district - I then supposed that there had been Eleven (11) Kuller murders in the district - I had just received a letter from a citizen of Council county in relation to Stephens murder and stating that two colored men had also been killed during the same week ~~and describing~~ ^{and describing} with particularity the hanging of one in his vicinity - The day before I was applied to by a colored man with a lacerated back who said he had come from Chatham and that two nights before he had been whipped and one of his neighbors killed

the Ku Klux -

As I have heard nothing further of these acts, I suppose the ^{reports} ~~reports~~ ^{the} ~~reports~~ ^{reports} must have been ~~mistaken~~ ^{mistaken}. At that time I supposed ~~these~~ ^{these} ~~reports~~ ^{reports} to be correct -

I am sure that the account given of Mr. Stephens death, is also incorrect. This, as is there stated, is the result of the circumstances not being fully known here at that time -

As I would not appear to add one iota to the crimes of this bloody and terrible Klan, I desire that this statement ~~may~~ ^{not} be published ~~extensively~~ ^{extensively} with my letter which was surreptitiously given to the public -

I have never had any idea that the members of this organization could be brought to justice by ~~any~~ ^{any} of the ordinary machinery of justice here, and have constantly ~~been~~ ^{been} for months urged upon the Governor the necessity of employing a competent sufficient force of competent professional detectives to ferret out their concealed acts and ascertain their identity.

Copy of letter to
New York Tribune

Aug 5th 1870

A. W. TOURGEE,
JUDGE.

Office of the Judge of the Superior Court,
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, N. C.

Greensboro, Aug 3rd, 1870.

Editor New York Tribune =

Sir: I have

just seen in a copy of your journal of a late date a letter which I addressed to Gen. Geo. C. Abbatt of N. C. Senator from this State on the 24th of May last. The letter in question was a private letter to Senator Abbatt, written by me immediately after receipt of the news of Mr. Stephens' murder. I have ever authorized its publication or exposure to any eye but his own. In reading it over now I see that there are ~~several~~ ^{statements} ~~statements~~ in it, part of them the result of clerical error ~~of~~ and part of ~~them~~ arising from imperfect data then in my possession. Such is the statement of the manner of Mr. Stephens' death. I had then before me a letter from a citizen of Caswell, stating that he was in Quinceyville upon the ~~day~~ ^{day} following and ~~giving a party's account of the party~~ ^{giving a party's account of the party} speaking of ~~the~~ ^{the} death of Stephens and also stating that ~~the~~ ^{the} colored men had

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been killed by the ^{Greensboro,} K. K. during the week ⁷⁸⁷ preceding his writing, and describing with particularity the hanging of one "by one from Virginia," as he stated in his immediate vicinity. I accepted ~~these~~ statements as correct and added ^{them} to the eight ~~mentioned~~ previous Kuklux murders in the District and the two in focus making ~~in the~~ "thirteen in the State" and not in the District as it was printed.

* I had also but a ~~few~~ day or so before been applied to by a colored man with a lacerated back from Chatham who said that he had been whipped ^{up during} Court week, and that two of his neighbors had been killed, by the Kuklux.

As I have not heard of anything further of them I presume my information ^{in regard to them} was incorrect, at least I do not know that it was correct.

A. W. TOURGEE,

JUDGE.

Office of the Judge of the Superior Court,

SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, N. C.

~~You were~~
You ^{make} me say that I believe "Four
thousand or five ~~thousand~~ 5000" houses have
been broken open in the District."

I wrote "Four Hundred or 500" This
would be evident from consideration of the
fact that I only estimate the ^{entire} number of out-
rages in the District as one thousand,
which it is still my estimate, and I think a
moderate one - I have not a copy of the Tribune
before me but believe these are the principal er-
rors which I noticed in a hasty reading of the
letter as published -

As I would not wish to
appear to add one iota to the crimes of this
fearful organization, I desire that the
correction may be published coextensively
with the statement itself - I regret that the
carelessness of Gen. Abbott should have
given to the public a letter written in haste,
and under the excitement of the occasion and
^{endorsed} ~~marked~~ "Private"; thereby ~~causing~~ requiring
this card and requiring me to still

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SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, N. C.

more to the hatred and ~~outrage~~ ^{outrage} of the
Klan - ^{Greensboro',} ⁷⁸⁷

I had hoped that a course would be adopted which would effectually prevent further outrage by these misguided men. For a year I have been urging upon Gov. Holden the employment of a sufficient number of competent professional detectives to bring these men to justice. I have had the misfortune to differ with his Excellency both as to the ~~necessity~~ efficiency and propriety of certain measures, but I hope they may ultimately result in the development and punishment of crime and in the obliteration of the last vestige of organized violence in the State -

Yours Respectfully

A. W. Tourgee
Judge Superior Court
7th Jud. Dist. N. C. -

A. W. TOURGEE,
JUDGE.

Office of the Judge of the Superior Court,
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, N. C.

Greensboro', _____, 187

P. S. The comparison of the Government to a
general who would allow "Cover or
Cover of his men to be bushwhacked"
of course refers to the remark of Senator
Lawton in his speech on the Surgeon Bill.
There and the aggregate of political
murders during the past two or three
years - There might be some fool
who ~~should~~ would try to make it ap-
pear that it means referred only to this
State -

W. J.

A. W. G. to
W. J. F. Suber
1870

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten notes and scribbles, possibly including names and dates.]