

Sep. 22nd 1888

Albion W. Turgee
Mayville N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Yours of 12th inst was received. I received from you the work '89. I have written, for I have read the work, quite a memorandum on it. My wife says it is foolish to send it to any one, backed her to it over to correct mistakes in spelling, as it is too long. I suspect she thinks foolish too. I did not care to have my name or identity noted. The fact is I find myself never to be unfaithful nor desert the cause of Negro. Not long after that God manifested his approval by opening the way for my conversion and I was permitted to have aid through Jesus Christ to drop or be enabled to resist temptations and sins that were previously part of the burden of my life and to be perfectly free from doubt as to God's existence and as to the fact that he has revealed himself to man both in the scriptures and by Christ. Having therefore promised faithful ness to the cause of the Negro had been informed in it I attempt not to let an opportunity go to put in a word for him. Many and many are the letters I have written and I am willing to suppose that the effect may have been sufficient to pay for the trouble. Just before the fall elections in 1887 I wrote a letter to the Boston Herald and gave some minute particulars on the subject of local Chain gangs in Georgia (for I ascertained that in the 137 counties, many of which contained large cities and some considerable sized towns, all possessing local chain gangs, there was 10,000 Colored men serving out 90 days or 6 months or 12 month sentences for misdemeanors convictions) and the substance of the letter was published but no name given. I would never have known it but from seeing Southern papers. It may have helped the republicans some in Massachusetts as that was just the state that it was supposed the Democrats would carry. Now Sir, I think that you would long for the cause of the Negro. I am

It is to be expected that some northern men, a real northern man in sympathy with the cause of the Negro, would be better to show it to them. I have seen it in Cleveland some time since in some periodical and the language about Cleveland is nearly identical, E. W.

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terms of Court in Georgia and one or two terms in Florida. By this experience I became acquainted with the manner in which the whites deal with the colored people and could give the full and minute details. I could show to a dot where the law gives the advantage, the law makers knowing the construction given the laws and the practice of the courts and of county officials, to those who make and execute the laws the white man. It is true that in by-elections and in many local contests the whites purchase the colored vote. The colored man does not do this when he thinks his interest as a race is at stake but in cases where he considers that he has no interest and that it is a contest only between those who have no interest in him. But the idea took possession of the southern whites, many of them, such as politicians, that the colored vote of the north could be purchased and used against the negro republican party and I think this was done in New York City in the election in New York City when young Grant was defeated. Let me see that election and the one in Massachusetts I have referred to was before the election in Ohio I believe last year. From what I saw in the south I was satisfied this would be attempted in Ohio and so on through the presidential election. One week of Georgia had an article printed in a magazine showing that the negro was not disfranchised and Gordon came to Ohio to talk. But as the election in Ohio was on national issues the plan could not work. In New York the election was on local issues and no doubt the colored man did not see any thing particularly interesting to him in the affair.

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election. After the president sent in his annual
message the Republican came very near falling
into this trap. Bearing on the question of free
trade and protection the colored man has, or that
he has, no interest. He is neither a mechanic in
the north nor a manufacturer and with that issue
alone presented he would not see as his cause
was interested. Senator Fairwell has a heavy interest
in Texas land. He and his friend built a
3,000,000 state Capital. Other southern families
and politicians on the Republican side have
stock and interest in property in the South
and therefore for dropping the issue but that
of tariff and protection to citizens abroad. The
Republican party would have been in worse shape
if this advice had been followed with the
Administration dropping its free trade position
and changing about on the Canadian question.
The defeat in New York in 1887 and the victory in
1887 in Ohio and Senator Ingalls' speeches and
your own and others influence caused better
counsel to prevail and the party not only took
advantage of the tariff issue but held to the
old issue of a fair vote. Every man must work
but I have no doubt but we will have success.
I hope and believe the people will not permit
a fraud either in the counting out of the votes
or in the declaring of the vote. Congress should
not adjourn for a day but must remain in session.
If the house passes a bill fixing a day for adjournment
the senate need not act, because if the senate fails
a different day the President will as he has a right
to adjourn Congress. But if the senate does not act the
President may say there is a disagreement (see Constitution)
and call to adjourn Congress but in that case the
Republican will not adjourn and if the Democrats
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