

OFFICE OF
THE PLAINDEALER,
DETROIT, MICH.

Albin N. Tourgee Esq

DEAR SIR:

The Plaindealer desires to call your attention to the following correspondence (published in its issue of to-day) and as it presents a subject of vital importance to the Afro-American race, we trust you will favor us with your opinion and idea of the work as outlined in Mr. Mathew's letter and advocated by The Plaindealer for the past four years.

Yours for the best interests of the race,

Plaindealer to
Robt Pelham Jr.
my

October 4th, 1889.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 19 1889.—The Hon. John M. Langston, Petersburg, Va. My Dear Sir: I have just returned from an eight week's visit to England and France. My visit was an exceedingly pleasant and profitable one. I enjoyed to the full the greatness and grandeur of London and the brilliancy and magnificence of Paris and her Exposition—was marred only by the reports which each mail brought me from America of the terrible outrages perpetrated on our weak and defenseless people at the South. Enjoying as I did all the freedom and protection of a man and freeman in countries trained to systems of restricted liberty I was hurt as with the sting of a whip at the outrages heaped on a few to be sure, but meant for us all. In Paris and at the express station I met people of every tribe, tongue and garb of the civilized world, and many indeed from the Soudan, Egypt, Persia, and the Occident, only nominally civilized; but none of these could tell the outrages and revolting tales of woe that the South Negro tells. With them, wherever else they were strangers, on their native heath at least they were at home and in peace. But we are aliens at home, foreigners in our own native land; without right, denied even protection. Abroad, a stranger, I enjoyed rights and privileges denied me at home; I was wounded and humiliated at the contrast. I thought of this anomalous condition, and after much reflection and conversation with some of the best trained minds in Europe I concluded that time is ripe for a race organization, for race unity, protection, and the protection and promotion of all interests pertaining to the dignity and welfare of our people. The league idea as formed by Mr. T. Thomas Fortune seems to me the correct one, with such extensions and modifications as would bring under its banner friendly and sympathetic interests throughout the world. But a brave, sagacious man is required to head this movement and organize the race into a political whole. My mind goes out to you as the one qualified by temperament, training, high courage, and wide acquaintanceship with the needs of the race for such work. Certainly the necessity for such an organization can no longer be doubted. Will you, my dear sir, preoccupied as you are with weighty cares and responsibilities, undertake this greater and supreme one, and fuse by your

enthusiasm and eloquence many fragments of our race into one mighty host which will then have the ability as it now has the will, to protect itself. In the few hours spent in New York on my arrival, I had the opportunity of talking the matter with a few of our friends, including Hon. P. S. B. Pinchback, Mr. T. McCants Stewart, Mr. T. Thomas Fortune, Rev. Mr. Walters, and Professor Dorsey, and in Philadelphia with T. J. Minton. Since coming home, the matter has been casually mentioned to Hon. John R. Lynch, Hon. Edward Blyden, ex-Minister John M. Smyth, ex-State Auditor of Kansas, E. P. McCabe, Editor Cromwell, and other prominent men of the race now here in the city. They all thought well of the effort and stand ready to co-operate. With such an organization, free from all jealousies and self-seekings, looking only to the good of the race, it will bring to itself not only the good and patriotic men of our people, but we shall receive the moral, and if need be, the financial support of good men in this country and of the liberal parties of the several capitals of Europe. I have the honor to be yours very respectfully.

WILLIAM E. MATTHEWS.

Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 27.—Mr. William E. Matthews, Washington, D. C. My Dear Sir: I have read and considered with interest your excellent letter of the 19th instant, and I thank you for it. The subject which you present and your thoughtful, statesmanlike manner of presentation greatly move me. You have had the opportunity of seeing and considering our condition from a standpoint from without and in the light of other National surroundings and experiences. I shall assume the authority to thank you in behalf of our race. There is nothing in which I am so profoundly interested as the protection and advancement of the colored American, and to nothing I am so ready to dedicate all my powers as to his general welfare. As to the importance, the necessity, and the dignity of the work to which you refer in his behalf there can be but a single opinion. If, upon further consultation with our friends, it should be felt that I should lead off in this movement, I will do so. Once more thanking you, I am ever, for our race, your obedient servant,

JOHN M. LANGSTON.