

Jackson, N. C.  
Northampton Co.

Nov. 27 1889.

Hon. Albion W. Tourgee.

Mayville, N. Y.

Dear Judge:

Your letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst.,  
was received on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Your familiar style, and practical  
hits made me feel like a New  
"rubber Over-shoe", rather than the  
old ones you refer to.

Full twenty years have passed  
since I enlisted with the Republi-  
cans, & I was then quite young com-  
paratively - and without means -  
a self-made man.

These twenty years have been an  
apparently endless struggle with  
all against me except my

Conscientious Conviction of right,  
and a determination to be true  
to the principles of justice.

I might have remained quiet-  
simply voting - a passive Republican  
- but with ballot box frauds, and  
the most heartless wrongs by the  
opposition committed in my  
very view, I may say, how  
was it possible for me not to  
be active in favor of fair play  
and even handed justice.

To be still, was to endorse, and  
like Paul "consenting" into.

The result was and is, I  
have no business - It is not my  
fault, but the fault of the situation.

I have never had any  
special fondness for office -

I have held several, but  
never specified any in my  
applications that I ever obtained.  
And none ever afforded

a decent, economical support.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of last March,  
I filed with the President, an  
Application "for Official  
Position" - and with it the  
endorsements of five or six  
White Reps, including Dockery  
and Eanes - White, Moore,  
Robinson, <sup>Russell</sup> &c. - also a letter  
from White - the colored sol.  
for this District -

I named the places I had held:  
Sol. 1<sup>st</sup> Dist - appt'd by Gov. Caldwell  
Member Leg. Perquimans in 1876.  
Assist - U. S. atty 1881-5 -  
Acting Solicitor Supreme Ct. during  
my brother's illness, during spring  
& Fall Terms - 1885-6.

I then said I would be glad to add  
Recorder of Deeds Dist. of Columbia,

Now, it may be that I am one  
of the biggest-fools in the world

to add that I will and express a desire for that place. It may be that it is too high, or brings me in competition with too much political influence. It may be that our brother in black thinks he ought to continue in it, and the administration may agree with him. Well, I care not to confine myself to that, but with a wife and a large family of children, I could not be advantaged by moving to Washington, or elsewhere, unless the place I obtain has sufficient emolument to justify a sane, reasonable man in doing so. or at least a place of medium grade of emolument conjoined to permanence of tenure. The greatest ambition I have now, is

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to educate my children, and accustom them to enjoy, and know something of comfortable surroundings. With a fighting chance of leaving them self supporting. I am taunted by my enemies with allusions such as "why, Dance's son has a place now worth \$3000 a year, under Harrison."

I am not anxious for a place of any political significance particularly. A quiet obscure corner, provided comfort is in the corner, would suit me equally as well.

Now, when you consider the fight I have made, with no wealth at my back, and not a relative in the world in sympathy with me, & never

Thrusting myself in the way  
of the party to gratify official  
greed - fighting against the  
odds, as you know yourself  
the field in this state, -

Does it not seem that in a  
Nation whose life depends on a  
pure ballot, one who has  
sacrificed business, and half  
a lifetime besides, in trying to  
secure it, and still fighting  
for it against respectability  
entrenched behind prejudice -

Might be recognized in a  
handsome, substantial way?  
Would they could all see the  
situation here as I see it!

But I have wasted enough  
of your time - and I do not  
even now know whether I  
have met the suggestion in  
your letter fully.

There are so few places

adapted to my peculiar situation,  
that - I know not hardly how  
to proceed for the best -

I would be glad to have suggestions  
and be advised in matters  
of this kind, which are well  
understood by few.

Sincerely Yours,  
Willis Bagley

P. S. I have no desire for a place  
too big for me - but with all my  
modesty, I don't want a little  
one - If one had to starve,  
he could do that more  
comfortably at home.

Would not I make a first  
class correspondent for a  
New York Daily - ? one that  
wanted tar, pitch & turpentine  
poured into the Democracy?

My non-de plume would be

"Old Rubber Over-shoe"