

PUBLICATION HOUSE  
FUNK & WAGNALLS,  
Nos. 18 and 20 Astor Place.

EDITORIAL ROOMS OF "THE VOICE."

NEW YORK, January 30th, 1890

Hon. Albion<sup>W.</sup> Tourgee,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

The following paragraph appears in a letter from you that was read at the Cleveland Convention of the Non-Partisan W.C.T.U.:

"There is hardly anything in contemporary politics that has seemed to me more horrible than the assumption of the delegates to the W.C.T.U. National Convention of the power to pledge their membership not only to the dogma of female suffrage but to that infamous and degrading plank of the Prohibition platforms which pronounces in favor of excluding the colored man from suffrage because of the enforced illiteracy which white American Christians had by law imposed on the race for two centuries and a half."

This characterization of an "assumption of the W.C.T.U. National Convention" as "Horrible", and of certain unquoted "planks of the Prohibition platforms" as "infamous and degrading," has been read with surprise by the friends of the W.C.T.U. and Prohibition Party. In the absence of more specific definition of the grounds for your criticisms, the surprise is mingled with considerable perplexity.

May I ask that you will write for THE VOICE a letter giving the reasons for your opinion upon these points? I would respectfully suggest the desirability of literal quotations of the particu-

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lar "planks" to which you refer. I hope you will agree with me that the interest excited among the large and very earnest following of the W C.T.U and Prohibition Party by so grave an attack from so prominent a writer, justifies the request herein made. And since you have in a deliberately-written letter, chosen such very decisive words as "horrible," "infamous" and "degrading" to convey your estimate of movements which lay claim to be distinctively impressed by a conscientious, fair and eminently just sentiment and purpose, I beg to suggest the appropriateness of an especial elucidation of the considerations that have persuaded you to apply these extreme reproaches to organizations whose fundamental business is to fight the evil elements and influences of society and politics.

Respectfully yours,

*D. K. Funk*  
Editor of *The Voice*