

28 York Square

New Haven, Conn. 15th of April 1890

Hon. Albion W. Tourgée,

Dear Sir: Having read your book "Pachelius Prime" with much interest and profit, I desire to congratulate you on the possession of a talent for putting arguments in the form of an object lesson, in which those who not only reaches but persuades and convicts large classes who would not listen, and many of whom would not understand a syllogistic statement. In this new book you have set forth with remarkable clearness the pervasiveness of race prejudice as regards the negro, a prejudice as potent North as South. This is a central fact in the problem before the country, and a great part of the difficulty in dealing with practical questions is owing to the fact that a large proportion of the victims of the prejudice are unconscious of their state. They think they are willing to be just when they are not. Sometimes I think this prejudice is increasing rather than the contrary and this is true the conditions of peace, prosperity

and rightness are almost hopeless of achievement.

I am watching with the keenest interest the progress of recent discussion of this subject. Out of discussion the intelligent and the cordial will discern the truth and the light. I confess I do not have much faith in the promises which partisan politicians offer. There is a deadly insincerity in the political professions of purpose to secure justice. The public opinion that is going to be influential in accomplishing good results is deeper than party sentiment. The evil is religious and social more than political. You have touched the hearts of it as with a red-hot iron in your phrase "the white Christ." That ideal of rightness cannot be changed by act of Congress. Indeed, as it seems to me the political ^{sentiment} ~~substantive~~ is rather advanced than lagging as compared with the social and religious sentiment on this issue.

I am, dear sir, with sincere thanks,
your obliged friend, Walter Allen