

September 1, 1890.

Dear Judge Tourgée;

So much honest difference of opinion has occurred with reference to the condition of the Negro in the South that we have decided to interview the whole southern people on the subject, that is, to send out a list of inquiries to many thousands of intelligent persons, representing various occupations and classes. The result we purpose to publish in some form, possibly as a text

for articles in the Forum.

As a beginning and to illustrate what we mean, we have prepared the enclosed questions.

If you think favorably of the scheme, we shall be pleased if you, with your wide know-

ledge of the subject, will favor us by adding any queries.

That in your judgment should be included.

Yours Sincerely,

L. P. Metcalf,

Questions.

How rapid and how general a growth has there been of the sanctity of the Negro family?

Is there a stronger condemnation by colored public opinion than formerly of colored women's lapses?

How rapidly are the colored people acquiring real property?

Do they show a tendency to get possession of farms or of town property?

Are they entering the Trades, such as masonry, the carpenter's trade, the blacksmith's

trade, in increasing numbers?

Do they show an aptitude for skilled labor?

Have they a fair chance to become skilled artisans?

Is their pay for artisan work the same that white artisans receive?

To what degree is thrift cultivated by them?

Do those colored people who have had the benefit of the schools compare favorably with the rest in industry?

What professions are open to them, besides teaching and

preaching to their own people?

Do you know colored physicians?

Is it or is it not tacitly understood by both races that the whites mean to keep control of the State government in every State?

Does any plan to restrict the suffrage of the colored meet with general approval, either openly or silently; such, for examples, as a property qualification or an educational qualification?

Are the people of either race

in your community conscious
of any insoluble or very
grave difficulty in the
"Negro problem"?

they have lived these twenty-
five years?

Does either race regard
the present state of things as
unsatisfactory, or as likely at
any time to lead to a crisis
along political or industrial
lines of activity?

In brief, is there a Negro
problem at all? or will the
two races live with occasional
political conflicts or neighbor-
hood quarrels, indefinitely as