

Des Moines Iowa, May 29th 1892.

Dear Sir:-

I have just finished reading your "Bystander's Notes" in yesterday's INTER OCEAN, and wish to congratulate you on your splendid treatment of the theme. Your lecture in this city some two years ago, when I had the pleasure of meeting you, brought to my notice for the first time the idea brought out in the second paragraph viz., the debt of the whole nation to the negro as a race by reason of the vast wealth which he produced without receiving any benefit therefor. It is strange to me - this sluggish^{ness} of the public conscience! Strange, what atrocities may be perpetrated almost unheeded; how much of suffering must be borne before the great public heart seems to feel it, and demand that it shall cease! The "Irrepressible Conflict" is all too far from ended. Great wrong has been done in the past, and the present has its own. And this is not all. There is an inexorable law of nature which, ^{through} it bring not justice - that is impossible now - it will bring retribution. In this connection I remember the letter from the colored boy, which you read us at the hotel, in which he stated that some of them had reached the conclusion that they must have justice even if half of them must die to obtain it for the remainder. I tremble as I consider what this may mean. But it is a hopeful indication when such great journals as the INTER OCEAN devote so much space to the question as it does in yesterday's paper, in scathing editorial and apt caricature. If your position is not correct, if the general government cannot stretch forth its strong arm and protect its citizens where the state refuses, then as well had Calhoun's doctrine tri-

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umphed, as well that we have no general government. Such claims to the contrary seem to me to be but the miserable pretexts of pandering, time-serving politicians who care not at whose expense they win, nor at what outrages of justice. I sincerely hope that the great convention at Minneapolis will speak in no uncertain terms on this important question.

But I must beg your pardon for intruding upon your time and attention. But your article fell so in harmony with my own views, is so strongly anti-Democratic, that I desired to thank you personally for the same.

Hon. Albion W. Tourgee,
Mayville N.Y.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "B. J. Dyar". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a thick, dark stroke.