Wilmington N. C.
June 13, 1892

My Dear Madam:—

Our friend, Col. Shaffer, will send to you certain life Policies which are assigned by him to you. Please write me a letter saying that you have received them and that you will hold them as Trustee for him and will convey or assign them & transfer any proceeds from them to him ~~as~~ or to any other person according to his direction and in case of his death to his ~~personal representative~~ wife or to such person as she may designate. Please write this to me and make no charge to him. I shall hold the papers as his counsel for the present. The premiums will be paid.

How is the Judge? Does he see how Harrison can carry New York ~~last~~ November after being beaten in the person of his Customs Collector fifty thousand votes last November? As to things down here in the Jeff Davis Confederacy, of course it makes no sort of difference who is nominated. The non-suffrage States will be solid.

Harrison has pandered to the meanest and most corrupt negro politicians all over the South and succeeded in getting the votes of the rotten borough States in Convention and in driving white men out of the party. He and the bummer negroes have drawn the color line on us. The blacks are more aggressive and proscriptive and ungrateful and treacherous than you would suppose it possible. Take for an example the black Congressional Dist of N.C. In reconstructive times and long after they elected white men to Congress and generally good men. Now if Judge Tourgee or Tom Reid or Depew or Blaine lived in that District, ~~he~~ neither of them could ~~not~~ carry the Convention ~~in~~ unless it was bought with money. If Tourgee was in N.C. to-day he would receive the same old hatred from the whites and no more, nay not as much, consideration from the blacks as the trafficking politicians in the counties who barter with them for a living. The author of Toinette & Fools Errand would stand no better ~~than~~ with the degraded wretches, or with their educated leaders, to whose elevation he has largely given his life than would Jim Boyd who was Ku Kluxing them while he was risking his life for their protection.

Of course there are good people among them and their condition is pitiful because they are persecuted by the whites and betrayed by their own race. They are distrusted by their own color and as "on poplar" as the colored preacher told me he would be with his congregation if he should preach against larceny.

But I did not start out to growl about politics. Mrs R is at the Beach where we sleep every night. We have a tent there on the sand by the waves. Will be glad to hear from you. I am going to send the Judge a barrell of mullets if I can get them packed so that I think any of you will eat them. The season has not opened yet for them. Hope you will come & see us next winter.

Truly

D. L. Russell