

Morgan County Georgia
Oct 17 1892

To Albion W. Tourgee

I am a Democrat, with a big D, but I sometimes read the Inter-Ocean as I do the N.Y. Tribune and other Republican Papers in order that I may get both sides of the political issues that now disturb the public mind; but instead of getting therefrom any argument whatever in favor of Republican Principles or that will stand at all before the apparent necessity for Democracy at the South I get your articles under the heading of "A Bystanders Note" - which for straight out malignant lying against the Southern People I have never seen approached. You write as if you knew all about the negro, and the situation in the South when your writings proclaim your ignorance of the subject to be greater than that of any man I have known write for a newspaper. You are either densely ignorant of the subject about which you write

on the most foul mouthed, malignant liar
that ever breathed, or ever put a pen on pa-
per. In this County, since the War of seces-
sion, (not of Rebellion as you so ignorantly put it) there
have been at least One hundred Northern families who
came here, bought land, and tried negroes as laborers
nearly all of them Republicans, Many of them holding
the same opinion of the poor, pitiful, downtrodden
condition of the negro as you set forth in your mass
of vile lies, - gotten before coming here by reading just
such stuff in the Northern Papers, - Now after
their Experience with the negro, - his shiftlessness, his
lying, and stealing, their opinion is different, very
far different from what it was when they came,
These same Northern men have nearly all of them
moved back North, leaving the money they brought with
them behind, Not one of them has ever made any
money farming in this County with negro labor, They don't
understand him, and they can't get along with him, The ne-
gro comes out in debt at the end of the year, and settles
the debt by leaving, Living in this County is an Ex-Colonel
of the Northern Army who had written just such stuff
as you write for the Northern papers before coming
here. After he bought land here and farmed one year there was
an election

and he thought that his telling the negroes on his place that he was a Col. in the Yankee army, and fought for their freedom was all that was needed to make every fool negro on his place vote his way. He tried it by talk, but found they would not go. He tried it by bribing and was met with the answer that the other man had offered him more than that. I imagine his utter disgust at the defeat of his wishes by the votes of the dear, pitiful, downtrodden negro, who openly told him the other fellow would pay him more for his vote. The negro vote in Georgia, the size of it, simply depends on the eagerness of the aspirants for office. If opposing sides are eager enough to buy up the negro vote, they call them out and they vote, if not, the negro does not go to the election. Many of them not knowing when an election comes on. I employ from

Go to 100 negroes, I pay them their wages when they are due, and I do not seek to influence their vote, because I am not a politician, and do not want any office.

A few weeks ago we had considerable political excitement in the race between Democracy and the Peoples Party. The negro vote was called out pretty largely, which accounts for the large and pleasing Democratic majority in this State.

One night, after I had paid of my hands there were ten men standing in a group, something was said about a speech to be made in the neighborhood that night by a third party orator. I asked them a few questions about politics. Out of the ten men between the ages of 21 & 50 not one of them knew who was the present Governor of Ga., or who was the President of the United States.

Nothen had nearly served two years as Governor and Harrison nearly four " as President and yet they did not know of either

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You blame the Southern People from protecting themselves against such ignorance, when self preservation demands it. How can such irresponsible creatures be entrusted with the Government? A few men with money to buy their votes could get into office and ruin the State. The men of Georgia, having the welfare of their State at heart have to resort to any means to influence them to cast their ignorant ballot on the side of order and good Government. They do vote and their ballot is counted as fairly in Georgia as in any State in the Union. If it was not for the rivalry excited by local elections - County officers - where the Candidate on each side buys of the negro vote, paying their taxes in order that they might vote - in five years three fourths of the negroes of Georgia would be disfranchised could not vote on account of an accumulation of back taxes.

You speak also in a most insulting way of the crimes against the negro for Rape or attempt at Rape. Saying that any white woman who has

Judge against a negro man can have him
put out of the way by making a charge of
rape against him - As if any Southern wo-
man could sink low enough to make such
a charge - bring her name in such a re-
lation before the public unless it was too bitterly
true. You would not dare make such
an utterance in Georgia! No man who has any
appreciation of what a chaste wife, daughter or
mother is would descend low enough to make
such a public utterance against the women of
the South, but a man, the offspring of a
whore, the husband of a whore, and
having a whorish lot of daughters standing
ready to black mail any man whom they can
 inveigh into a bed with them might make
it, though I don't see how even he can have
cheek enough to bring his own degradation
before the Public so prominently.

It speaks volumes for the forbearance of a
long suffering People that we of the South
do not mob you any way - even if you
are away up in New York. If you dare show
your brazen face in Georgia and make such

utterance you would surely have
 to a personal experience of what
 the infernal, brutish, negro who attempted
 rape on a Southern white woman always
 gets, and always will get as long as
 there is any manhood in the South.

They do not accept a few dollars
 as hush money for the violated Chas-
 tity of a wife or daughter, as your
 infernal money loving Yankee does,
 but when it occurs somebody's
 blood is spilled, the sentiment of the
 whole people uphold this way of deal-
 ing with such a crime, and your vile
 insinuations are no more than the barking
 of a poodle dog against it.

The idea of a white woman making such
 a charge to satisfy a grudge against a
 negro man, knowing as she does know that
 for her to speak means the death of the negro
 or of the white man either so far as that

is concerned, is the most outrageously
insulting charge that any infernal Yankee
ever made. You know, just as well as you
know you are living that it is a foul, base
lie, emanating from a heart that has not one
instinct of purity in it. Content as you are
to live with whorish influences surrounding
you, raising whores for the market, and
voicing the envious sentiment of a people
delighting in "malignity" to the South. Nothing
better could be expected of you in sentiment
though it is hard to believe, if it were not so
daily demonstrated that you could find a pa-
per to publish such slanderous charges.

I want to extend you an invitation to come to Ga.
and give us a talk on that line. I'll guar-
antee you a papers coffin and burial,
more than you deserve, but we Georgians
are a generous hearted people, and we give
justice even to our enemies. If you are mad
enough over this to fight let me know and a
personal meeting will be arranged for with great
pleasure by your hearty hatin

J. L. Sewell

Madison, Morgan Co, Ga