

Springtown Ark Jan 23rd 93
Mr Abner Bourque
Mayville N.Y.

Dear Sir

Enclosed please find a clipping
from last week's Memphis
paper - Weekly Commercial if
I am not mistaken -

I'm a reader of the "Bystander",
notes, Inter-ocean -

I thought perhaps, you might
think the clipping worthy of
notice in your notes; and
if so might have the pleasure
seeing how you would
dispute of such sophistry

Respectfully & Cordially

James Hall

Springtown
Ark

PERSONAL FAVORS.

THE NEGRO'S "EQUIVALENT."

Tourgee wants to know "what equivalent the American nation is to make the negro for two centuries and a half of unrequited toil." During the two centuries and a half aforesaid the negro has been clothed instead of going naked, has been fed on wholesome food instead of human flesh, has been civilized, made a christian and is now a sovereign citizen and law-maker in the greatest Republic on earth. He has churches, schools, can own property and hold office. He has been in the United States Senate, in the House of Representatives, in the State Legislatures and has represented the majesty of this great government at foreign courts. He can play craps, hunt coons and steal chickens. He can belong to the Grand Army of the Republic and draw pensions; he can eat at the same table and sleep in the same bed with George W. Cable; in some parts of the country he can marry white women and in one of the most "cultured cities of the East a black face will introduce a negro harlot into "good society;" he can have Albion W. Tourgee to write columns of sentimental slush about him every day; he can have smart Yankees to lament his woes, slander his friends and steal his money; he can vote the Republican ticket, be stuffed with Republican promises and robbed by Republican taxes. Now what else would Tourgee have us do to make the thing even? Let him speak his mind freely and the "equivalent" shall be forthcoming, even if it be forty acres and a mule or a Freedman's Bureau.