

New York, Feb. 22 1893,  
Judge A. W. Tougee,

Dear Sir: Your letter received.  
Again I thank you for sugges-  
tions. My reason for consulting  
you was that I wanted the o-  
pinion of one who was not a  
member of the race. The man-  
hood of my race as lawyers,  
~~is too partisan to give cool~~  
~~and~~ unbiased counsel. I see that  
I see also that is what the case  
needs. I had confidence some-  
how in your professions, more  
than any of your race - hence  
I appealed to you. I wished  
to know and still desire to know  
what chances there are for a  
vindication of my character,  
and if the Bystander would  
undertake to help me do it.  
I know not whether to impute

your conservative replies to  
caution on the subject, or the  
intimation that there are those  
of my own race who are ready  
to seize ~~my~~ themselves in an  
effort to gratify their spirit of re-  
venge.

It is not a firm of lawyers  
but two who practice independently  
of each other. One is named  
J. J. Settle. He was my friend and  
advocate until the Free Speech  
~~and~~ gave space in its columns  
to a censure of the man from a  
colored house-builder because  
he who made his living off his  
race, gave a \$3000 contract  
for his <sup>new</sup> house to white mechanics.  
Mr. Settle thereupon became the enemy  
of the Free Speech editor (myself) and  
publicly pronounced his antagonism  
and used his influence with the  
School Board to have me lose my  
place. Mr. Cassels, another color-  
ed lawyer, had a railroad suit

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of mine and neglected it so, I was forced to take it from him and give to the white man he had associated with him in the case, and who refused to go on with it (after winning in the Circuit Court) to the Supreme Court unless I dismissed Mr. Cassels. I did so, and he never forgave me. Both are sycophants and do not half defend their clients and the Free Speech with more zeal than discretion chided them for it. This is the cause of their enmity. I do not like to expose the weaknesses of my race but I do wish a clear, impartial opinion as to the prospects of winning the suit I have in contemplation. It is necessary

to know the facts <sup>now that you have all</sup> to do this. <sup>the objects,</sup> if  
you will do this, I will try not  
intrude on your time and  
patience again. Both have  
been severely tried in the afflic-  
tion under which you now  
labor and for which you  
have my sincere sympathy.

It is my earnest wish, and  
I know I voice the sentiments  
of thousands of my race, that  
the Baptist life long <sup>may live!</sup> to  
speak with clarion voice against  
wrong and injustice

Yours gratefully

Ida B. Wells.