

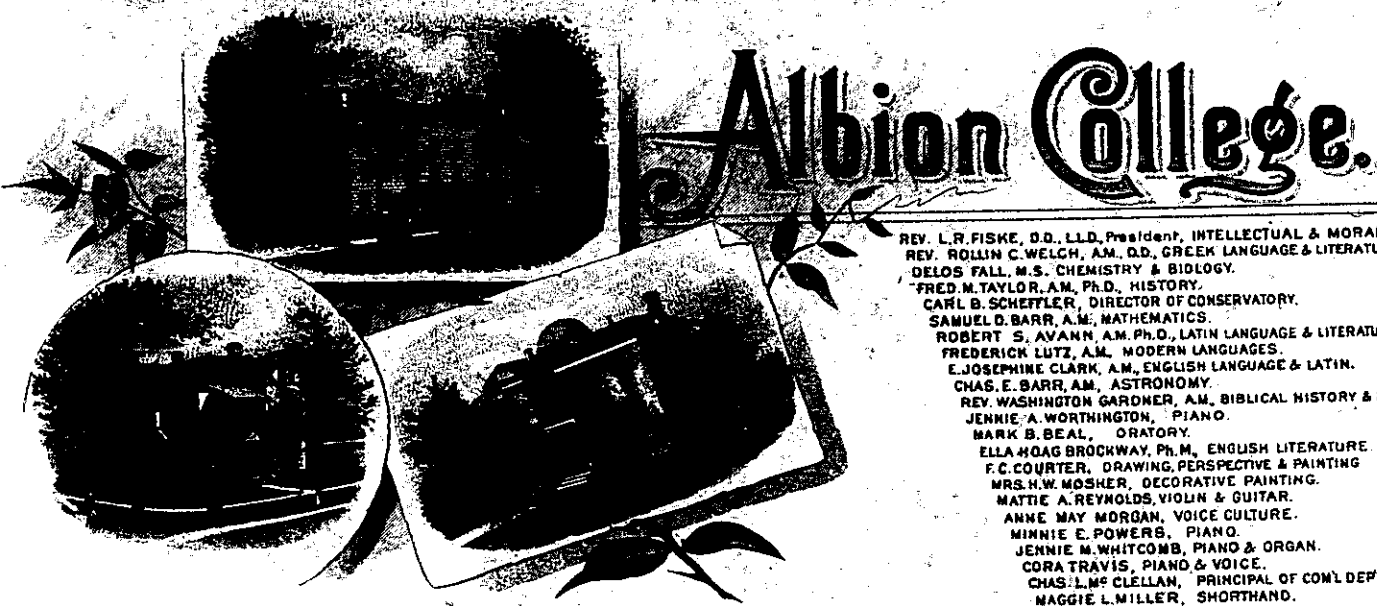
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Albion, Mich., Feb 25 1893

Mr. W. W. Tourgee  
 & Mayville N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I am a negro  
 and a student at Albion College. I have  
 been reading the notes of the "Bystander"  
 for some time and I am not a little  
 interested in them; the very able and  
 masterly way you defend my race has  
 made me desirous to know you and  
 this is one reason why I write you.  
 Another reason is that you have stirred  
 me up not a little and because of this  
 I am very anxious to talk with  
 you if you are willing and have the  
 time and I hope you <sup>are and</sup> have.  
 I wish to talk with you because I know

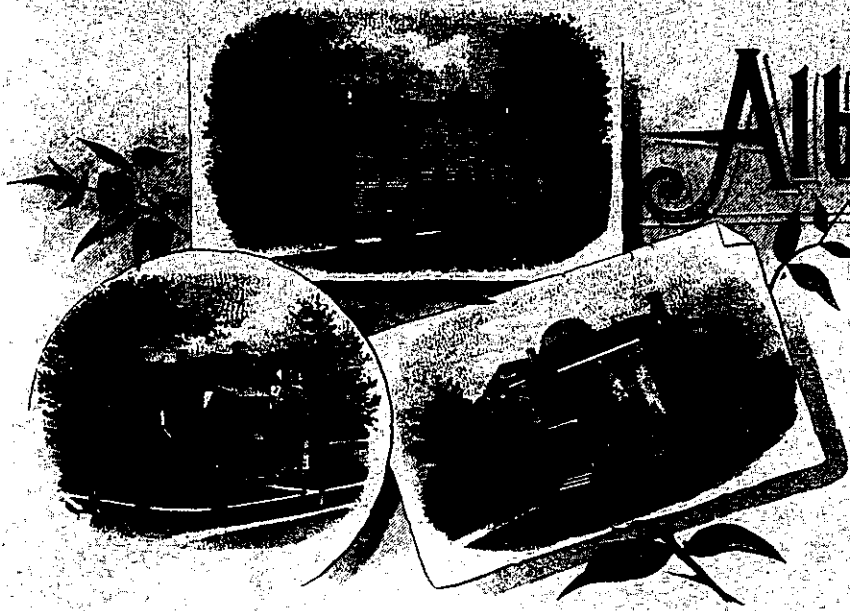


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that you can give me some advice by following which I may become a very useful man to my race. It was my intention to be a Minister, but what I read in one of your recent notes with what I had in my mind has about changed my course. I have an excellent chance to study law and that with an eminent firm, one of the best in the state, and I have concluded to do it. But what I wished to get your opinion off is this. We hold a state convention in Michigan once a year to consider and to take steps to better our condition; and we shall hold our next one in April. Now please tell me what you think of such conventions, also please tell me



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what steps you think could be taken which would best advance our interests. I don't see how we could materially help those of the South and yet it might be done. Will you be kind enough to write me and give me a few suggestions. I assure you that they will serve their purpose and that I shall ever even as I do now find and feel my self greatly indebted to you.

I am most respectfully yours  
Isaiah C. Washington  
Albion Michigan

Dear Sir:

I do not see how I can give you any "suggestions" as you desire.

It seems to me that the only suggestion you need is that which no colored man should require, to wit:

Study the history of your people in the United States until you know what slavery was; then study its present conditions until you realize what liberty should be. Make yourself worthy of it and give your strength to secure it for your people.

Respectfully

Wm. D. Loring