

#76- 25th, st.

Chicago, March 12 1893.

Hon. Albion Tougee

Maysville N. Y.

My Dear Sir and Friend:-

You are so accustomed to be appealed to for all kinds of information, suggestions, and advice from American Negroes, that you perhaps now ask no apology from those who still persist in troubling you.

My only justification in writing this letter to you is that such information and suggestions as you can furnish me will be used in a way that will meet your approval.

Please let me state in the first place who I am. My husband is Mr. S. Laing Williams, of the firm of Barnett & Williams of this city. Having been favorably noticed by my active interest in many of the municipal reforms that command the attention of many of our best women, I have been honored with the appointment to a place on the program of the World's Congress of Representative Women to be held in connection with the World's Congress Auxiliary of the World's Fair. I have been asked at that Congress to read a paper on the subject: "The Progress and Present Status of the Colored Women of the United States and their Progress since their emancipation."

This Congress is to be held in May next and I feel that the

opportunity afforded me to speak a word in behalf of the colored women an important one and I am very anxious to meet the expectations of those who are hopeful that our case shall be adequately presented.

It at once occurred to me that for a purpose of this kind you would be willing to aid me with such data and suggestions as in your good judgment would be pertinent, instructive, and interesting.

Your utterances so abound in startling facts, figures, and reasonings relative to the American Negro and his varied relations to every thing and every body that I do not feel like commencing my work without some word of advice or suggestion from you in this matter. If there be any literature upon this sex phase of the Negro question that you can refer me to or any accessible data that tell unmistakably of the steady and sure development from degraded peasantry toward a noble womanhood, I would be duly obligated to you for directions.

Need I be more specific as to what I want? If so I will write you again, but your wisdom on all such matters is so all-inclusive that you can easily know better than I what is wanted.

Obediently yours,  
Mrs. Fannie Barrier Williams