

LIGHT.
Natchez, Mississippi.

Natchez, Miss., Mch. 30th, 1893.

Mr. William C. Lee,

Gambia, O.

Dear Lee:

I thought you had forgotten me, so long it has been since I heard from you in any way; but the receipt, a few days ago, of the "InterOcean", containing Judge Tourgee's severe criticism of the South and the lawlessness of its people, showed me that you did think of your friends in this locality sometimes. You know my opinion in reference to the obedience to laws and strict enforcement of the same, not only having expressed myself to you, but you will remember, that from time to time, I have spoken on this subject in "Light". It may be that I am as much in favor of the law being carried out strictly, as much opposed to lynching, as Judge Tourgee. I rather think I am, but let me say that he makes a serious mistake in being so bitter in his condemnation of the South. Taking for granted that he is honestly in favor of reform, he does not temper his advocacy of his views with sufficient kind spirit to reach the ears of the South. He certainly has some experience with us in this place and he is not to be faulted, but that ~~his~~ ^{his} ~~go-~~ ^{go-} ~~nism~~ ^{nism} accomplishes but little with us in the way of convincing of error. If I was able, I would like to do more than I am doing to spread the principles of kindness and mercy among our people. I believe that humane education will do more to reform us than anything else. I am sure Judge Tourgee is not helping the cause in the South by his writings. ~~We~~ ^{He} should feel like helping ~~a~~ ^a great number of those here, who are struggling to put down every character of lawlessness, if he sincerely desires the welfare of the colored people.

LIGHT.
Natchez, Mississ^{ip}pt,

However, I am glad you sent me the article on the subject, and I have no objection, if you see fit, to your forwarding this letter to the writer of the paper, and saying to him what my purpose has been in publishing "Light". By the way, what do you think of the recent numbers of the monthly? I would like to know, really, your opinion about it, as to whether it is improving or not. And will you write me how you are getting along? I feel a deep interest in you and your success in your chosen work. Brandon is doing first-rate; has already taken a prominent place at the bar in this county. ^{John} is still helping me some with "Light", and is canvassing for a clothing house. I hope that you will write me fully soon.

Your sincere friend,

Rich^d. S. Reed

You must excuse above - I dictated it, but the lady who works for me, could not get her "Caligraph" down to business to day. Reed