

Lawrence Rust, M. A. LL. D. } Regents.  
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Penyer Military Academy

Gambier, O., April 28, 1893

Albion W. Tourgee, Esq.,  
Mayville-on-Chautauque, N. Y.

Dear Sir,

I have been interested in reading some of your Bystander's Notes in the Inter-Ocean, particularly the one giving statistics of lynchings in the South. I sent that paper to a friend of mine in Natchez, Mississippi, where I myself have lived for sometime, coming up here from there last fall. I am a Kansas man by birth and rearing. Mr. Reed answered me in a letter which I take the liberty to forward to you. I do not agree with him in his opinion that your writings will have no effect. It may be as he says, that the Southerners will not take kindly your reproofs; but the articles in the Inter-Ocean are read by hundreds of Northerners in both public and private life, whose views will not be offended thereby, and whose combined opinion, often repeated, perhaps in milder terms, will have its due influence in the South. Besides this, it is a good thing to have the facts brought forth. The common belief in the South, I think, is that expressed by the papers, i. e., that nearly all lynchings are for rape. Mr. Reed, who is a fair minded and kindhearted man, expressed that belief; I was able from my own reading of the papers to tell him he was wrong.

and it was to further correct the mistake that I sent him your article. It is not only in the South, however, I regret to say, that improved public sentiment in regard to lynching is need. There is altogether too much mob law in the West, even where order has long prevailed, and not only in new settlements.

The whole thing is due to the slow, uncertain course of legal conviction of malefactors, and still more to the frequency of pardons after conviction. These conditions prevail in the East as well as in the South and West. ~~I do not think that~~ as James Bryce says, the kindhearted and easy-tempered American people are too apt to forget that there are times "when Agag must be hewn in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal." I do not think that the lynching of negroes so much more than whites in the South is because of hatred toward <sup>them</sup> or ~~the~~ will to oppress. It is partly because there are really far more criminals among the negroes, in proportion to their numbers, than among the whites; and partly because a crime ~~seems~~ <sup>is</sup> more when committed by a poor, ignorant and dirty fellow than when it is by a well-to-do, cultured and nice appearing gentleman; and not only it seems wicked <sup>to those who judge</sup>, but there are not so many to take an interest in the culprit and beg for pardon. This difference between the two kinds of criminals, we must confess, is no less common North than South. In ordinary relations, I must say that in all my observation, the negroes are treated by the whites with all the considerations that could be desired, and I never knew the negroes to complain of its not being so. ~~Believing~~ ~~grow~~ ~~now~~ ~~on~~ ~~him~~ ~~let~~ ~~of~~ ~~never~~ ~~and~~ ~~to~~ ~~publish~~ ~~two~~ ~~in~~ ~~most~~ ~~old~~

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I send you two copies of "Light", a small monthly magazine lately started in Natchez by Mr. Reed. He is the secretary of the Humane Society, and the paper is devoted to the humane work. This paper is certainly faced in the right direction. The two copies herewith sent speak against lynching. The later numbers are an improvement on the earlier ones. They would be glad to have your name on the mailing list. Please subscribe. It is \$1.00 a year. The paper certainly is engaged in a good work.

I am, sir,

Yours very truly,

William Canfield Sec.