

Devonna.

Hamilton Co. Florida

May 15th 1893.

Hon Albion W. Tourgee

Mayville-on-Chataugua

New York.

Mr Tourgee, I

am very much interested and pleased with your "Bystander's" notes published in the Indian Ocean newspaper. I think you let the average southern politician off very light when we come to see that this numerous class of bipeds has gone back into the Union of the States only far enough to draw a salary.

In your strictures upon the effects of the institution of slavery I would have you temper them somewhat with charity. There are those who were once slave owners who are free from the barbarism you attribute to all and who can and do treat the former

slave and his posterity with perfect
 justice and humanity. I would like
 to see you exempt such from the general
 rebuke, I am willing to see the freedmen
 and their posterity have an equal chance
 with myself and my posterity in the life-
 struggle before us. It is very unpopular
 to say as much but I have said it and
 shall continue to say and practice it to
 the end. I was a Secessionist, a Confed-
 erate soldier that surrendered with
 Genl Lee at Appomattox and
 owned slaves. I am content and
 I have gone all the way back into
 the Union. Why do you exempt those
 from the charge of barbarism inci-
 dent to the institution of Slavery who
 introduced Slavery into the western
 world? The people of New York were
 once slave owners and death in Slavery
 are the people of New York tainted
 with the disease.³

The Southern politicians are completely under the dominion of the Negro; this is a fact beyond dispute. All of the legislation of the South restricting the rights of the citizen is the result of fear of Negro supremacy or domination; this is not denied and it may be reasonable to suppose that it is real and not assumed for a purpose. Your position of barbarism would seem to indicate that this fear of an race that could, under any conditions inspire such a trait, is to be feared, they might, if in the ascendancy, go back to their normal conditions. Half of the responsibility of Slavery belongs of right, to the Negro, for he was sold by a Negro and purchased by a white man. I would have you think of all these things and be somewhat more charitable. Lay it on to the Southern politician as hard as you can for he is on his guard, lay and vile beyond conception. Very Respectfully
John S. Perrieraud