

S. J. Hutchins

12½ E 9th

538 Market Street

Chattanooga, Tenn. June 3

1883

Hon. A. H. Tourgee

Dear Sir:

Knowing your reputation for charity toward the oppressed, we deem it prudent to seek your aid in our effort to enforce justice.

Some time ago about a month Alfred Blount an innocent colored citizen was lynched by a mob of whites here. The white body who it is alleged was assaulted could not identify him as the culprit who committed the offense. Some negro had to die. Blount had a wife, was poor, and inoffensive. He was set upon, cut to pieces, ~~strangled~~ and then shot. His widow has brought suit against the sheriff and his securities with a view to repair damages.

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need bring the guilty parties to justice.
 You are aware that this is the first
 case of the kind ever brought in
 this country. We are trying to put
 a stop to Lynch law in the south
 by legitimate means, and we
 appeal to you and others who are
 interested, in the name of God
 humanity and justice, for aid.
 Your own wield a moral influ-
 ence ~~our~~ our behalf, and any
 financial aid you might be dis-
 posed to give will be thank-
 fully received. The whites how-
 ever employ their best legal
 talent to contest the matter
 and it will be bitterly fought
 on both sides.
 The case is pending here in
 the circuit court, and we all

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now fighting the pellucuous case
 it will come up for final
 hearing in sept. Mrs Annie
 Blount the widow is left
 penniless and requests all
 who has charity for the poor
 to aid her in this contest.
 Our people here are poor and
 oppressed, and therefore we are
 forced to appeal to our friends
 abroad for assistance. We
 know Blount was innocent
 of any offence and have
 full proof to that effect. It
 requires money to carry on the
 prosecution, ~~but~~ ^{know} that it will result beneficially
 to the whole race and mankind.

Resp—
 12 1/2 E 9th st.

Hutchins
 + Hutchins
 atty for Mrs Blount