L. A. MARTINET, EDITOR. L. J. JOUBERT, Business Manager.

The Crusader,

No. 117 EXCHANGE ALLEY.

New Orleans, La., Aug. 4 1893.

Hon. A. W. Tourgee -

My dear Judge:

It is really a shame that I have not penned you a line since leaving Chicago - but if what I found here on my return added so much to my discouragement of ever accomplishing anything for this people, that I did not know myself whether I would not quit. Our friends had quarreled among themselves and some who had the least cause - who had been aided & benefitted by or through The Crusader, or by me, were trying to pull down the paper & had done some injury. My heart bled at the fulsomeness, deceit, hypocrisy, ingratitude of men; I was prepared for many disappointments from the

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general mass, but not for this from intelligent men & respected friends who love us for our patriotism and the spirit of it you are compelled to meet this mean thing & I was so disgusted that I thought that I had had no reason to have returned from Chicago, where I could have gotten along well, quietly & pleasantly, and for a while I thought that I would go back, & take my family & quit this county altogether. But this feeling was only momentary, I soon realized that we had friends yet & that them should not be abandoned so readily & also, that the great ignorant & helpless mass needed our defense, & so I stayed & am in it again.

I have been wanting to write to you for several days, but have not found time until to-night. I am just from the printing office, and, thinking kind, I sent this before going to bed. You no doubt have seen in the Crusader the outrage against Mr. Brassfield & family at Mandeville - a runaway sent here across the lake. We that is the members of the Citizens' Committee,

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have resolved to publish the affair in pamphlet form for distribution in all parts where we can find friends of liberty & lovers of justice in this country & in Europe & everywhere else. Of course the injustice to Mr. Bonseigneur & his invalid wife is not as heinous as the mob-murder of Miller at Bardwell, Lee Walker at Memphis, & Thompson & others of in South Carolina, but the violation of right is as great. In the latter cases a crime had been committed; in the case of Mr. Bonseigneur something preferred to the most quiet & virtuous, an honored & esteemed, a respected & respectable, a refined & educated & useful & large tax-paying citizen - a perfect gentleman - the son of one of the veterans (colored) who fought under Jackson against the British & who bought about Louisiana's admission into the Union - has been denied his constitutional right to the enjoyment of personal liberty - even in search of health for an invalid wife -

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to the pursuit of happiness, to hold property enjoy his possessions. Of virtue, honor, wealth & education refinement & ancestry, if all that bring social status & social consideration to the white man in a community, do not secure to the colored man even the bare protection of the laws in the enjoyment & exercise of constitutional rights, then our Declaration of Independence is a lie, our Constitution a fraud, our boasted liberty - a delusion & snare, and the whole American people a nation of liars & hypocrites, and then why should the Negro labor virtuously, educate his children & try to acquire & accumulate property, as some Negro preachers & politicians & publishers advise that it is all he has to do, to live on friendly terms with his white neighbors? Why should he try to elevate himself at all if he can enjoy the same undergo no privileges & immunities the humblest rights of the humblest citizen?

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I said we are going to publish in ~~the~~ pamphlet this outrage against Mr. Bonseigneur & his family & that I wanted to write to you- I wanted to ask you to contribute an article ~~on the subject~~ on the denial of rights to the colored citizen in this country with special reference to the case of Mr. Bonseigneur. We are not doing this because it is Mr. Bonseigneur - but because by the attack ~~on him~~ on his the rights of all & each are attacked, we are all equally molested & injured. Yet Mr. Bonseigneur has special ~~consideration~~ claims to our consideration & gratitude. He is the treasurer of our Citizens' Committee, the largest contributor to our fund to fight the Jim Crow car, a patriotic citizen always ready with his means & purse to aid the good

cause; and it is specially pleasing to serve the common cause when in so doing we also serve a friend. These considerations have emboldened me to make this request of you, notwithstanding that I know that your time is very much occupied, that a short article from you will draw an attention & give a consideration to our pamphlet that it would not otherwise have, at least in this county, from the people of the North - else do the American people, know of the colored people except the suddenness or baseness of Negro preachers & the corruption & venality of Negro politicians with whom they have come in contact, outside of a general surmise that all the wrongs are steeped in the direst ignorance?

What we intend to insert in the pamphlet after correction are: Mr. Bruce's statement, a couple of articles which appeared in The Crusader & the proceedings of our indignation meeting, with a synopsis of the speech of each speaker; and I have thought of adding to this, & preparing the whole with it, the article which I ask you to write.

A. MARTINET, EDITOR. L. J. JOUBERT, Business Manager.

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Speaking of our meeting, I must say that it was the finest I ever saw. The politicians & speakers were not in it, but the virtuous citizens from all ranks & of all ages were there, from the humble workingman to the wealthy man or gentleman of leisure. Yet the Hon. H. Dudley, a late Representative & in Congress from this city, was the only white man of prominence whom we could find to address the meeting - but he made an admirable & brave speech. Of course the papers here made no mention of the meeting, no more than they would say anything against the outrages daily committed upon us. To refresh your memory & guide you in writing the article we ask of you in regard to the details which I could not give in this letter, I send with this slip from The Crusader. You see, I assume that you will send the article - I hope I am not too free - and in case you so decide

Mr. Brousseau's speech was translated into English by Mr. Jacob Fink, who was introduced as a Frenchman who had left his country 30 years ago because he could not speak his own tongue freely.

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I beg you to let me know by wire, & let us pay him for the telegram, as I have lost considerable time before writing you, this will enable me to go on with the work without further delay.

Now, Mr. Walker complains that he has not heard from you for a long time. He is anxious that you should write to him, and is feeling annoyed that you should not assign him a advise him what phase or what part you wish him to take in the Pleny case. He wants to have plenty of time to prepare himself. I believe I made you the same request for myself before I left Chicago. You remember that the Committee voted that I should be in the case & go to Washington. This was done by yourself. Now you have got me into it & you must help me.

I am glad, judging by your article in last Saturday's Inter Ocean, that there is a demand for a more efficient

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organization of the National Citizens' Rights Association, and also for a journal or publication. This I have ~~always~~ often urged, you know. We shall do all we can at this end to help. Jane also trying to raise ~~from~~ around you a small fund to help in the purpose, ~~damage~~ suit in behalf of the widow of the unfortunate Miller.

Regarding ourselves - I mean The Crusader - I have, since I have again taken the collar, renewed the agitation to make the paper a daily, relying in a great measure on the plan you suggested to me in Chicago. If, however, it militates against a publication by the N. C. R. A., or it becomes urgent, ~~for~~ you will please let me know. We want to help but not impede

the front row.

It remains for me now to beg you to thank Mrs. Tourgee for the little ~~most~~ memento of her lamented mother - a little needle-book, one of the last made by the philanthropic old lady before her death - sent to my wife, and also to excuse my wife for not having made acknowledgement yet. My wife is not only the fondest correspondent in the world, but the letter came in the midst of the preparations for the closing exercises of her school & she had little time then to write & put it off. After the close of the school, like all who work continuously with only one vacation in the year, she has had to attend to things about the household for the next work season, and as she purposes to visit the World's Fair, leaving the latter part of this month - not to mar her pleasure I have told her nothing of my resentfulness against the thing - she has been at it earlier and has been more busy than in previous years. But she will now write to Mrs. Tourgee in a few days. The gift & Mrs. Tourgee's kind attention touched us deeply & are duly appreciated. Please to present her our respects & warmest regards. Now I had promised that I would never burden you again with a long letter - but a short letter, to you, is so unsatisfactory, and herein is my excuse for this one.

Yours faithfully,

Louis A. Burbank

Also Gen. Tourgee's address, that the turkey may be sent.

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