338 Wisconsin Ave, Oak Park, Ill.
Sept. 19, 1893.

The Hon. Albion W. Tourgée

My dear Sir;

You are most kind to write so fully to one who is little more than a stranger. I shall prize your letter very highly and make use of it as best can to serve the cause you have so long labored to advance.

With regard to what you say concerning your relation to the church, will you permit me to say in reply that, I can most thoroughly appreciate the force of your words. Only the day before your letter came I had remarked to my wife that were I to be subjected to re-ordination I no sure no church would count me orthodox and that were I not already a member of a church I should much feeling as I do. my desire to unite with any organization of Christians, - not that I do not value the work that has been done and is being done by the church, but I am continually being irritated by seeing, what

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013

are some the essential teachings of Christianity, ignored in the presence of things which are but the merest accidents. In an address delivered three years ago before the Educational Society of the Rochester Theological Seminary I insisted upon the fact that, if the church was to hold her place in the minds of thoughtful men, that she must cease her endless speculations about plans of salvation and theories of atonement and the blessedness of some future world and set herself to get this world into harmony with the will of God: that Jesus came quite as much to establish right relations between man and man as between man and God. I write this only that you may know that I can appreciate your attitude toward the church. To me Christianity as embodied in the teachings of Jesus is one thing and the modern church quite a different thing. I continue in the ministry, I remain in my own denomination only because I trust I may be able to do the little that I can do for the kingdom better from within the church than from without. - and influenced, doubtless, also by the fact that I have learned this way to win my daily bread.

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013

The Inter-Ocean answers my inquiry about the "Bystanders Notes" with most generous words of praise for you as a contributor to its columns & one of its force and skill, but says economy in the management of the paper makes retrenchment a necessity. I suppose it must face the fact that the great majority of Christian readers dont care a continental whether other people love their right or not so long as they themselves are not disturbed.

You will forgive me for saying that I am in doubt as to the wisdom of publishing the National Citizen. It appears to me doubtful that not enough might be interested in it to make it worthy of your pencil. But if you and others deem it wise I pledge my hearty cooperation in circulating its circulation to the utmost of my ability. Count upon me always for any service in my power to render you or the cause. Expect to be able to call upon Mrs. Tomlinson this evening.

Yours most sincerely

Wishing you many years of success in

Francis D. Cowley.

10 & 1

as at 5 P.M. Congress held in the interests of Human responsibility.

Can you give me two or three possible dates for a lecture and the times. Let the time be for your advantage. I should not be greatly concerned if it do not make much out of it.

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013