

June 27, 1894

Mr. Hon. Albion W. Tourgee,

My dear Friend;

You may possibly have seen that some one of the denominations (at the North) during a recent annual meeting, passed a resolution that put the church it represented on record against the lawlessness of the day, seen especially in the South. Now the Baptist Young Peoples Union of America meets next month at Toronto, Canada. I am not only a delegate but have some "influence." I am not certain, however, that I can secure the passing of the most moderately mild resolution on this subject, but I propose to try, and, if I don't succeed, it will at least prepare the way for other efforts in the future. The facts are that our Young Peoples' Union, started in the North, is trying hard to capture the Young Baptists of the South; the Baptists of the South are resisting the attempt. To succeed, there is a strong disposition on the part of our officers to compromise on the question of allowing women a place on the Board of Management and also on the question of permitting the colored young people, who are

parts of the Union to representation in joint con-
ventions; the plan being that the colored group Prof-
testants continue to hold their own conventions at
different times and in different places. I do not
know that any of the colored organizations have
asked to meet with the white ones. Perhaps they
prefer to be alone, but should they ask to come in
with us there are some who will oppose it on the ground
that, just at present, we must not antagonize our white
brethren of the South. Because you know what result
of that. What have we ever gained through compromise
with the South politically or religiously? How
would it if you would not take a few minutes
to dictate a resolution that I might present and
seek to have pass. If it only indirectly looked toward
the lynching at the South it might be an entering
wedge. Of this I can assure you, there are too
many of us who have long been your pupils to
allow any compromise on this color question.
Better that the Union be broken into a thousand
pieces than that it seek prosperity through such
a Christless compromise. Do you recall Lin-
coln's words at the reception given the Peace
Conference when he first arrived in Washington,
just before his inauguration: "Those who fight the
purpose of this assembly will not succeed. They always
have been they always will be, beaten. How then you
have said substantially the same."

I long ago intended writing you of my
pleasure in seeing you again in the States again.
I fairly shouted when I opened the first paper that

contained the assumed "note". That man Nixon
does deserve credit for his position on this question
if he can see that anything is wrong with
the country except the tariff. As to your now being
nominated for Congress, as things now are, I
do not hope, nor did I dare to hope when your
name was proposed. You are too much of a patriot
and too true to party politics. The times are
not ready for men who think more of their country
and God's righteousness than they do of the spoils
office. Still think I am a Republican. I am,
to kind for me my father was, but to day what
does the average Republican in public life
care about eternal principles more than the
average Democrat? I am as sure as that I live
that the men you say will see a return of the Republican
Party to its former position as the Party of right and
justice and freedom or that will be the organization
of a new party holding the faith of Lincoln and such
leaders as yourself.

With great love and longing you from my
heart as the most and most far-seeing leader of
my day. I am

Yours most faithfully,

Francis Rowley

Should family mind you in all days
I am I'm sorry.