

East St Louis, Ill.,
June 29/94

Judge Albion W. Tourgee,
Wayville, N.C.

Dear Sir;

I have just had the pleasure of reading your book, "Bricks without Straw," and have enjoyed it very much indeed. I wish however to say that I am afraid that even you do not indicate the proper course to be pursued by the National Government in respect to the political condition of the Southern States. Your remedy, if I understand it rightly, would be to educate the people at the expense of the Nation. Then, you go on to reason that the people of the South think that they should not be left alone to bear the burden of educating the negro and that if the government should help them, it would remove a great deal of their prejudice and show them that the government did not simply free the negroes in order to humiliate and humble them, but intended to carry part of the burden in good faith &c. Now if I am not mistaken, your argument tends to such conclusion as above. I am a Southern man. My people are the

same, I believe I know and understand the people of the South and you will pardon me when I say that it seems to me that no Northern man, no matter how long he has lived in the South, nor how much he has studied this people, can ever really see the Southern mind as it is. When the Blair bill for National aid to the States for educational purposes was before Congress, it was an issue between the two parties in Tennessee. It was opposed on the ground that if it became a law, the negro would get part of ^{the} money. This was the sole & only reason and it was enough to defeat it tho' it had offered ten times as much as it did. The young men of the South hate the negro and everything connected with him that looks or tends to his advancement. As a "keweenaw of wood & drawer of water," he is well liked by all, but when he aspires to something better, then he must look out. He is getting dangerous. The better class of our people are willing to help the negroes in school & church affairs but when it comes

to political affairs, all are ready to do what
 ever be necessary to suppress him — and they
 do it too, It seems to a Southern Repub-
 lican that the people of the North are
 without any sense of honor or even shame,
 They allow the "Jolie Bitch" to rule them
 & take the medicine with a smile,
 I was raised to be very patriotic, My father
 was and is a Union Republican, and has
^{been} persecuted on account of his political con-
 viction, He raised his children to have the great-
 est love & reverence for the Nation, but now
 they have lived to see ~~the~~ the Nation they
 thought was powerful & strong, governing at the
 feet of a Sovereign state, impotent and
 useless; Powerless to enforce its own laws,
 or to protect its citizens, Such a govern-
 ment cannot last and Lord Macaulay's
 prophecy may come to pass after all,
 Pardon me if I say I do not think your
 plan will ever work, There is but one way
 to do with a rattle-snake or Copperhead,
 Unfortunately it was only bruised and then nursed
 to life to sting again, Respect, M.H. Stevell Jr.