8020

No. 1303 Jefferson St. Baltimore Md.
Sept. 7 - 94

Honorable A. W. Tourgee:
Dear Sir:

I am a young colored man who am trying to do something for the alleviation of our (the Negroes) industrial straits, as exists throughout the U. S.
I dare will not admit further explanation, but I need the advice & influence of some man or men. And there is no one I whom I have ever heard or read white or colored to whom I would go for advice & sympathy concerning the Negro race, when I could go to you. Ever

I have never seen you,
but from the depth of my
heart I admire your persistent,
noble and unselfish work, for
the Negro and for the right-
more than I do the achiev-
ments of any modern men,-
Washington and Lincoln not
excepted.

With this assurance of
your almost superhuman, love
for justice, at the sacrafice
of your great public life, and
of popularity among many of
your race, I wish to en-
list your advice and sympathy
in a move of which I am
the humble author, and of
which many people tell me
daily that there has never
been one to approach it in point
of practical facts and clearness of

purpose and end.

Among those who have given
me the warmest encouragement
in my effort are a great many
clergymen of this city (all colored)
~~But~~ The last prominent Clergy-
man I have explained my
plans to, is Dr. G. W. Bryant of
Washington D.C. Chief Secty of
the National equal rights league.
He, when I called upon him here last Tues,
complimented me very highly, said
that my purpose, and the course
that I was persuing, was
above criticism, And that it
must go through.

But I wish to see, ~~and~~
and explain my purpose to you, I
must see you. An word ~~of~~
~~encouragement~~ from you, will do
me more good than from any
other source. Over

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013

Some men who are working for popularity will acknowledge, to my face that I am right and when they get behind my back they will talk against me.

I know that had you been seeking popularity - you would have found something to do besides working for the Negro.

I know that you want justice for the Negro and that you will endorse any move that will secure that justice, no difference who is the Author of such move.

I am very anxious to visit you, and to explain all to you. Can go in the course of two wks or sooner. Please send instructions if there are any. Register letter so that you would be sure to get it. Strictly confidential! J. S. Simons

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013