8204

Rosebud S. Dak. Dec. 4th 1894

Albion W. Tourgee
Mayville,
New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have been a reader of your notes for some time and much admire your efforts to secure a proper protection to the colored race and to arrest the rapid progress of lynching. Having just read your notes in Inter Ocean of Nov. 27th I desire to ask you a few questions, hoping you may find them worthy of consideration

1st Are not the people the state

2d Are not a portion of the people a portion of the state?

3d If a portion of a state who take human life as a punishment to the offending party may be called a "many headed murderer" may not all the state who take life for the same purpose be called a more headed murderer?

4th. If lynching is wrong would it make it right to say to a county you may occassionally kill one of your bad ~~ed~~ men or women provided you will give the heirs of murdered person five or ~~th~~ a ten thousand dollars?

5th How many constitute a mobe capable of lynching, would there be any probability of a tough gang lynching one of its members in order to claim the bounty

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6th I consider the bill giving payment to heirs of parties lynched a good one in many respects, but is it not in the nature of a license to a great wrong?

7th Do you think the New Testament teaches capital punishment?

8th Do you think a consistent Christian can be horrified and indignant over a lynching and look on at a state killing with approval and satisfaction?

9th Do you think capital punishment tends to lessen crime, if so would not lynching lessen it to a greater extent as the latter is much more swift and certain.

10th Do you justify capital punishment from the teachings of the mosaic law: if so read the 21st chapter of Exodus and see if it dont give the south a right to give a white man a preference over a black servant Do you think the servants and the poor of to day should have only the same protection as given in that chapter;

Very respectfully,

J. F. Horse

Rosebud,

So. Dak.

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