Montgomery, Ala, Jan – 17 – 1895.

Hon Albion W. Tourgee,

Dear Sir –

I had the pleasure of reading your excellent article in the "Chicago Inter-Ocean" Jan the 8th intitled. "White-Line-Republicans in the Southern States" Please allow me to Congratulate you on your timely effort in showing up the injustice done to us here politically. You have a very correct idea of the political situation of things in the South. Only the half has been told. The Colored man in the South is the tool of three parties, his own party, Democratic party and the would be third party. For 20 years the Democrats have Counted the Negro's vote as pleased – The Counting out system Worked the poor Colored man for all he was worth. We are political slaves, mere chattels by which a few so called "block-belt-democrats – ride to office on the poor negro's back. This State official ring is worse than tammany ring. It is boldly done time and time again –

For an example— in my County— the County in Which the Capitol is situated— We have at the lowest Calculation 9000 Colored voters Who will Vote the republican ticket first, last and all the time. there are only 2000 White voters in this County; and yet the negro is unable to elect a Constable— We are denied a representative at the polls— Sometime our voters are intimidated, this State of things have almost Coward the Colored voter and he will readily tell you he feels that he is no longer an American citizen. It is a vast Mistake circulated in the North & East, that the negroes are voting the democratic ticket The Colored man is a natural born republican, and at least 9/10 of my race vote the republican ticket It is impossible to change him. Only a few deceitful negroes sell their votes, Others are Compel by peculiar Circumstances to vote the democrat ticket, The negroes in some part of my State are hauled to the polls in Wagons by their So called "Bosses" and are told to vote the

Democrat ticket or else — In this way things have grown from bad to worst — And still there is a movement on foot to call a Constitutional Convention and absolutely disfranchise the Colored voters. As the only means to maintain "White Supremacy" I have thus given a faint idea of democratic relation in regards to the negro.

The Negro and Republican Party —

This is his party and a large majority of them love the very name. Your points on the "White Leaguers" are not only true in Texas, but somewhat true in Alabama. We have a few true and tried White republicans who will stick to the Colored republicans through adversities as well as success. There are very, very scarce —

There seems to be an under-current to eliminate the negro from politics in my party and it is thought by this method it will draw more White men in the republican party — There are some White republicans who want all the best places handed out by Uncle Sam — Also they want

Chairmanship of every important Committee—
In fact they are more dictatorial than the
Democrats— They teach that the negro can't get
from the Northern republican What the White republi-
can, If Condition continues as they are it may
serve to drive the intelligent negro away from the
republican party in the South. If We go into
seperate Caucuses— it means an eternal severing
of the white & Colored Republicans. Nothing can
save us but fair and equal justice, We are
largely in majority of the White Republicans
and certainly We are intitled some Consider-
tion, take the negro out of the party in the
South and there be no party—

The Negro and the populist party—
We had hoped to accomplish something from the
above named party, but all to naught. This party
is made a poor class of White men, who never
had good feeling towards the Colored men, They
too go to the White republicans to buy the negro
vote, And the "Boss" republican sells us to the

party for a mere Partridge— The Colored republicans are on to the trick and the third party man will receive a cold shoulder from the Negro in 96", Being a Constant traveler in this State, I know Something of our Condition, In some respects We are in the Same Condition as the democrat party— We look for help from our northern republicans, We hope they will continue to look out for our interest, We Know no other refuge— I Sincerely hope you will continue to advocate the Cause of a down trodden people with all classes and all parties— I hope you will excuse long letter— I am greatly interested my race and the success of our party— Being Chairman of the republican Executive Committee of Montgomery Co, I will be glad to receive any plans or suggestions you may have for the good of the party in the South, You are at liberty to use this letter or any of its parts, Hoping you will Continue for our best interest—

Yours, John C. Leftwich,

Chairman of Rep- Ex- Committee of Montgomery Co.

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