Phoenix Or Apr 8" 1895

A W Tourgee Esq Dear Sir

The "Bass" came duly to hand, I have read it, I forget how long ago it was, that I subscribed to the "citizen's league", its effect was commendable to me then, & more the less so now; but I cannot in Justice to myself subscribe for it, 1st, because I could not find time to read it, except at the expence of other publications. - I am a laboring man, and evenings, is all the time I can spare, except rainy days; which are not plenty in this country, 2nd I am a Populist - a life long Republican till 4 years ago, when I commenced the study of Law, which led me into Politics, result - I left that Party & have cast my fortunes with the Populists, and the laboring masses of our land Black & White, and so we differ Politically to say that I have admired you as a writer & a man ever since I became acquainted with you through your writings, (about the time, you attempted, to make "Bricks without Straw" to restore, South Carolina, to her duty, as a sister State) is to say it tamely, You see, the wrongs we suffer, both Black & White, you comprehend the curses that lash our backs, you would see them in Justice all removed, there is not one evil we suffer, that your are not aware of - So do I, thus far we are still together, and on some of the remedial agencies (theoretical) we agree, or partially so

but here we part company - Your Editorial is plain
You are a Republican, and believe the reforms
necessary, can, must & will be the work of that party
but knowing as I now do, the power that has and
does absolutely control, both old parties, alike, I
cannot so believe, knowing as I do, the legislation
That has & does curse, our county, to be 9/10 of Repub-
lican origin, and not, believing that, any recuper-
ative power is left within its folds, is why I left
it, undoubtedly you a familiar with our Platform
of principles, all of which I endorse, - but do not
understand me to think that, they could all be
put in force at once, without perhaps working great harm
the leading men of our party, are neither fools or
fanatics, in that respect we compare favorably with either
of the old Parties - But I do believe that our rem-
edies, are the only ones, that will ultimately bring
the needed relief. "Crank, do you say, well so began
the Republican party - I do not believe, & think it
never has been demonstrated, that an old party
can successfully carry through a new & needed reform
Parties as a rule, come into power, on some great
issue (good one), then its work practically is done, the
next advance, must be made by a new party.
You are a philosopher, and know the reason why! -
The financial question has forced itself to the front
& like Banquo Ghost, will not down - think you the
republican Party can or will right the wrongs it has
inflicted upon us! through financial legislation
beginning in 62, & continuing until the present hour!
I cannot so believe - I wish I could, but having
the past 4 years familiarised myself with every law passed

in congress on that question since E2, forbids me to hope = there is no hope for us, unless we first express our wants at the ballot box, there is no hope at the ballot box, until the masses are educated, on vital political questions, such as are the direct subjects & object of legislation, morality & a Christian character every man should have - but if we wait until every voter, is so endowed with virtue, before we instruct him in political matters our Republic has reached her Zeneth, again a man may be as righteous as Moses or Job, and if he is not instructed rightly in political economy, there is & always will be evil designing men, "wise in the things of this world" who, will take advantage of his ignorance, and vote him to his own destruction, & this is largely the reason, why we are suffering to day woes innumerable

If we would save our republic, we cant wate to raise up an ideal generation, we must use the men of today, and I trust God will raise up great & good men, who will be able to direct our nation for the next 5 years, - for I predict that before the sun rises, on Jan 1st 1900, the scales will have fallen from off all our eyes

I trust that the "Bases" will be of great benefit, in at once opening the eyes of the mass, that redemption may come to us

By the way the Populist are second in Or. (D 3d)

and hope to be 1st in 96. we are first in this Co. & in 4 others if I remember right, we are driving a direct issue, & hope for immediate & lasting results. I wish you could wield your mighty pen on our side of the question, but I guess I wont have to wait long for great events will travel, now so fast upon one another, that surprise will take hold on us all, and we hope for the better

I Am Fraternally
Ira Wakefield

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