2905 Wabash Ave.,
Chicago
May 19, 95.

Dear Miss Tourgee:-

Yours of 16th received and contents carefully noted. I sincerely trust that it is with my unfortunate race as myself that the things of which you complain are errors of the head and not the heart. It was said while "the Reason Why" was in the printers hands that the first bound copy was to go to the man whose thought originated in the fruition, for from the original intention, tho it was. I left it to those who were helping me in the distribution and they I judge forgot it, & in turn left it to me. All these months I have thought he had that copy and have wondered

many times why there was never any mention of it. Once or twice during our interview at the Grand Pacific in this city I hoped he would say how he regarded it, and then thought he ignored it because it was so far from what it should have been. Please permit me to make up at this late hour for the seeming neglect and send you the copy you should have had long ago. I offer you most sincere apologies for it all and sympathize greatly with your feeling in the matter. I can the better do so because I have so often been made to feel that I am as Ibsen has said, become "the Enemy of the People" because I desire to help them. But I know this is not true, however much it may seem

so and I take heart of grace. I am inspired to keep up the fight for principle's sake by such examples as your noble husband's and your own. I know that you do not labor for the applause of the multitude any more than did our Savior who was denied, betrayed and forsaken by his own whom he had taught and loved, and crucified by those he came to save; and hence none of these things move you from championing the cause of right, because it is right and because right the day must win.

And now to the personal "bone-picking." I plead guilty to the indictment that it was a breach of etiquette not to write

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you that I found on inquiry that I could make better terms with the B & O road & New York, than the New York Central and availed myself of the cut rate accorded me by a friend and stopped over in Washington instead. If I should have acquainted you with the change if the tone of your letter had led me to think you expected me as a guest. As it simply gave me permission to stop and consult the judge on matters touching race welfare, as well as instructions touching the trains to take, I did not think it mattered very much whether I came or not; and my time was too much occupied to give needed attention to mere matters of form. The judge had given me such a cordial invitation to visit him when

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next I went east that I treasured it to be acted upon and so wrote. The formal tone of the reply made me fear you would consider me forcing myself upon you, instead of responding to an invitation, and I regretted having sent it. It may be wrong to seem so sensitive but I seriously doubt if others whose skins are not colored would not feel as keenly ~~the~~ air of social condescension which the Negro generally meets even from his friends among the white people. On the other hand we meet it so constantly that we are liable to imagine it where it is not meant. I can see clearly by this letter that you did not think by my letter that I was trying to

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force myself socially upon you and
I regret more than I can say that
I caused you inconvenience
or unpleasantness. Yet I know
you would rather have the truth
than an evasion. Feeling as I
did I should not have requested
you permission to come
to your home again but I
knew if the Judge had an
office in Buffalo I would
like to call upon him when
passing through as I anticipate
doing in August.

I saw Dr. Bentley today
and gave him your message. He
acknowledges your remarks as timely
& just and I am sure
he will show his appreciation
of them in a few days. I thank
you very much for sending me
"The Basis" via The Conservator.
It is anything but a fair exchange
and therefore your kindness is the

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more be appreciated.

Believe me I appreciate more than I can say the honor you do me in saying that my failure to come was a disappointment to yourselves, one of which I realize I am not worthy. I sincerely trust that in future I may not add to what you must charge against my race in the way of omission and commission. With sentiments of the highest regard I am

Gratefully yours
Ida B. Wells.

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