P. O. Box. # 19,
Handsboro, Miss.

Hon. Albion W. Tourgee,
Mayville, N. Y.

Dear Sir:—

To say that my bump of self esteem was considerably inflated after a full 30 minutes view of my portrait in the last issue of The Basis and that I was correspondingly proud but faintly describe my feeling. As one of Adam's rank sons, of course, I must have 50 copies if available, which please send with bill.

For a period covering several weeks my brother has been compelled to do most of the work in the interest of the Basis. During that time I have been under a physician's treatment for the first time in 25 years. We — my family — have moved for the summer to the point indicated above which will be my address until October or November; kindly mail the Basis accordingly. O how I would like to be one among the competitors in your prize offers

for essays stories, etc. The subjects are so dear to my heart - my dream for years; how keenly do I feel my deficiency. Lacking in both requisites, a clear knowledge of the subject and literary form, I ~~said~~ only be a sympathizing onlooker in this friendly struggle among scholars and literary giants. Compelled to leave school at an early age to assist in supporting mother and a younger brother I was thus deprived of a complete education. I inherited an intense love of reading from my maternal grandfather, an exiled Bonapartist whose name was Louis Maurice D'Orville. He married my grandmother in Indiana in which state my mother was born. There are a number of facts in my history in which mother, father and other relatives were important actors which would form the basis of a story under the skillful weaving of a practiced story teller, ~~the scenes of~~ which are laid in the South under Slavery's regime -

My own passion for reading found expression in the best of English and French literature, eagerly devouring history, fiction, poetry and latterly works of greater erudition in the realms of philosophy and Ethnology by both ancient and modern writers. I loved

almost equally as well the German, Greek, Italian, and Spanish authors, drawing liberally from their contributions in some by translation. I hardly know how to classify separately American and English writings; they are so nearly akin in thought and sentiment that I love both. I may be pardoned in the apparent egotism betrayed in the above recital: my desire was to show that while circumstances deprived me of the advantages of a complete education, I have not altogether abused the little opportunity accorded me. In such articles as I have ventured with trembling to write for publication in the ministry of the gospel, my efforts in battling against prevailing evils was restricted to the people of my own church membership and race, the enclosed tract furnishing an illustration. I would, if I could afford it, enter college with my children next term though 40 years of age, my sole aim being to better qualify for our Master's work in his moral vineyard. For several years past, as I have previously intimated, I have not been in the active ministry though preaching at all times and places subject to circumstances.

The non promise of a number

of ministers and other friends to push the interests of the Basis in various states will not be entirely satisfactory to me until I have learned that they have subscribed themselves and have also induced others to become subscribers. This will require further correspondence and some hard ~~thinking~~ will be given in connection with my regular employment which I hope to resume in a few days.

Hoping all are well and that God may spare you to us until in his loving providence the welcome words: "Well done, good and faithful servant" may be heard,

I am very respectfully,

Thos. R. Griffin.

June 6- '95.

Probably you are not aware that you sent me no extra or sample copies of The Basis according to promise. I am satisfied it was an oversight.

Yr.