P. O. Box #19,
Hazlehurst, Miss.
June 30th, '95.

Hon. Albion W. Tourgee,
Mayville, New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have about exhausted my supply of "extra" papers in a judicious distribution among the following states: New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, New Jersey, Texas, Florida and Kentucky.

Representative men and women of both races in other States have been addressed by letter soliciting both their attention and subscriptions to one of the very few papers which is conceived in love and founded in righteousness. The prospect is indeed encouraging for the early success of the Basis.

As an illustration of how interest may be awakened I will instance.

My brother was in a trolley car reading an editorial in The Basis entitled "Christian Evolution". Beside him sat a man who from his dress

and appearance indicated the man of business. "Charley" soon became aware that the gentleman was as interested in the subject as he was himself, the increasing pressure upon his shoulder bearing evidence. Said his neighbor: "Have you finished with that paper?" "No", replied Charley a little nettled at his abruptness and disregard of the common rules of good breeding. Changing his tone and manner: "Couldn't you let me have it for a day or two? I promise you I will return it." "You may have it with pleasure to the end of this route which is as far as I am going". But our persistent friend was not to be put off so easily. "See here, you are a mail carrier, aren't you?" suggested by Charley's mail bag and uniform. "If you will let me have that paper, I pledge you my word to send it to your address or deposit it in any box on your route you may designate within three hours." By this time the attention of the whole car was attracted to the scene.

He gained his point and meeting Charley in the course of the day said, "That is a remarkable paper, possibly ahead of its time; splendid ideas, and as a literary production is a gem." "Damn its politics; the principle is right, I shall

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subscribe for it. It is somewhat Utopian, but I have never seen a better paper". He departed, leaving his identity enclosed in mystery, nor did my surprised brother think to ask him as to who he was. Referring to a paragraph in your latest issue (29th) where mention is made of the ill natured flings of colored editors, permit me to say that your answer thereto fits the situation exactly, and with due deference to your superior judgment, the less they are noticed in the future the less harm will they do and the better it will be for all concerned. I am taking 6 papers, dividing the number equally between white and colored publishers, selecting them as I do my clothes, according to taste and predilection. If you will kindly furnish me with a list of possible delinquent subscribers or the names of those that have failed to subscribe who appear on my list sent you, I will prod them, though some of them have changed location in the last 12 months.

We all think Miss Timmons George's contributions are little pearls of journalistic humor and truth and that you are ably seconded in the person of Rev. Thos. R. Slicer in the conduct of our ideal journal. It may appear

rather vied at this juncture, but there can be no harm in holding up to view the quarter million mark as the circulation of the Basis within three years. We ought to get that number among the colored people alone, and as soon as I can resume my occupation I shall return with renewed energy to a systematic course of canvassing among friends and foes, hoping to furnish my quota on schedule time.

Much sickness in family, reverses of fortune and suspension of work for about three months precludes immediate purchase of stock or other investment, but I will surely put some of my earnings in Basis values with returning prosperity.

Sincerely yours,
Thos. R. Griffin.