Chicago Ill July 4/95

My Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 26 ult reached me directly. I am convinced that I failed to make myself clear on the important details of conducting the "Chicago Edition". The simplicity of my method was evidently mistaken for one of much greater proportions and fraught with no little risk. A superficial study of the situation will convince anyone that there is a Ledge for the Basis here. To fill it permanently and profitably, a conservative beginning, which will reduce all risk and expenses to the minimum and make the enterprise self-sustaining from the start, is necessary. I am by no means insensible to the peculiarly favorable conditions here for the promotion of the Basis and its doctrines. But I also appreciate that the acorn must precede the oak. The Basis must be planted & allowed to grow. These peculiarly favorable conditions must be carefully manipulated to materialize into patronage, "profit and advantage". The venture, in my judgment, cannot be sprung a full grown oak to fill a hiatus such as frequently occurs in political or denominational journalism. Its opportunity

is not of this nature. I therefore suggested that a Chicago Edition be issued from your Buffalo press, the matter made up here, subjected to your judgment as Editor & Proprietor in Chief, a list of subscribers & advertising matter forwarded to you & the mailing be done there. This Chicago matter to be a part of the general issue. This detail harmonizes in the main with your idea as suggested in the question. How would it do to have no difference in two editions except one four page Chicago Good Luck form & Chicago imprint? The method of the introduction is our Rubicon. Local endorsement by your friends here in journalism in the nature of a prospectus would land us safely on the shore of public confidence. Energy, skill & a little business tact ought to do the rest. A proprietary interest in this end of the business would be ade the capital required, though it is possible for us to be slightly embarrassed in the early stages of growth. Be charitable enough not to ascribe my conservatism to any belief or expectation on my part that the success of the venture must depend upon the patronage of the Colored people. I confess that the

history of their rallying to the support of kindred efforts has done discouraging pages. Yet I doubt despair of their being taught to do their duty in this behalf. Like mankind everywhere they have yet to learn to do their duty to the living. Proper methods of organization with reference to many worthy causes, have wrought surprising results to the credit of colored people. A close practical student of the conditions which have given color to their conduct and general progress, I venture that I could organize a subscription patronage among them that would actually surprise you. I fear you have disposed of their case on the amount of their expression of gratitude, allegiance &c. Understand that I do not "bank" on this unfortunate people as a business ingredient in the present particular. Not by any means. But they are 40000 strong here and largely responsible for the prevalence of the sentiment which could easily be made to ripen into material support of the enterprise under consideration. I fully agree with you that avoidance of a surfeit of Negro devotion is one of the important conditions of the wide[s]t possible

(over)

circulation. In a campaign of education an overdose of is always fatal to the cause." Iam notoriously out of sympathy with the Colored Society "Newspaper" I am unwilling to concede that their impotent "kicks" against Judge Bourges's paper would be the reflection opinion of any considerable or respectable portion of Colored People anywhere in the U.S.

I think over the matter. If impossible for you to be here in the near future take the matter in your friend's hands - Mr Busby - let him call the city and we could arrange matter for an issue of a Chicago Edition to accompany the Inter Ocean containing the prospectus.

Let me hear from you!

Very truly yours

Hale G. Parker

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