2807 W. Walnut St

Louisville, Ky.

July 4, " 1895.

Judge Tourgee,

My dear friend, — I am just back from the Trustee Meeting at Berea College. I headed a citizens committee — with a "petition of grievances & complaint" against the present management of the school, which is bent on setting aside the colored people, in order to experiment with a so called "Southern problem" (myth) or bringing together the whites of the North and South, for effacing sectional lines — hankering after Southern recognition etc.

In order to carry out this scheme, not only Southern methods have been introduced, for reducing the prominence of the Colored people, but a departure from the ancient principles of the College has taken place, and the "mountain whites" are made the chief feature of its work, with the colored element set out. The first step was to crowd out the Colored tutor to please Southern whites. Our complaint proved these facts — but the Trustees said, to grant the same, & the redress demanded would humiliate the President, and as he was bringing in money they could not afford to do that now.

So they dodged behind a subterfuge, namely, that they could not yield to undue pressure from individuals — in the appointment of a colored professor in the school — although they voted last year to have one, over the president's protest for the same reason, - "outside demand." They made it a question between humiliating the Anglo Saxon, or injustice to the Colored people and yielded to the weak side of nature — regardless of the fact that the present policy, of encouraging caste sentiments & methods is dangerous to the future of the school, when once filled with Southern whites — as they all confessed, — but have hope that the President is right at heart & will not go so far. They knew it was our purpose to get Dr Stewart back — whom they supplanted with Frost — by a demand from the A.M.A. — for representation, and a tie up by a few donors, until said demand was complied with — "undue pressure from individuals" with a vengeance. But we hold that the colored people's rights are being withheld, and it is competent for them to demand redress, and any thing less would yield this right. But they deny that the colored people have any rights — except what they may think is best for them — the Southern doctrine repeated — to suit Southern sentiment.

This is a terrible outrage upon the Colored people, also, the memory of the honest-loyal people who subscribed their money to build the college, for all equally. Frost has a deadly hatred to social equality, - and so with many of the Trustees, and together with his ambition for Southern favorite, it is impossible for him to be just to Colored people.

It is the National disease - greed & selfishness vs - justice, when Colored people are affected. Dr Pearsons of Chicago - offered $60,000 - providing the trustees raise $150,000 - for educating Colored people & "mountain whites". The trustees asked us not to raise this question of Colored professor - as it might defeat the raising of this money and kill the college. I told them, then it should die - rather than yield up its principles for money & a policy certain to drive one class out of the school. I want to submit the whole matter to you - with the trustees actions etc, so that you can shape it to fit the "notes" in the Basis - and let honest people understand the trick being practiced, also prevent this scheme, - meeting the favor of many who will not give for equal education for whites & blacks -, but will give for whites - if assured that it is for whites especially

an no "danger of equality with the Negro" as the President has published. Wm Lloyd Garrison writes me. "I should be very sorry to believe that the managers were attempting to shut out the Negro from the institution and catering especially to the Mountain Whites." The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle gave Frost a roasting last May, but he shut the editor up by reminding him of his family connections and Oberlin education etc. as proof of good faith, as between himself - and his inferior critics - and that generally settles all questions. This same policy cut off the heads of all of Fee's friends - finally cut his head off by retiring him last week - and threatened to expell Dr Steward; it kept you from being called to lecture at Berea, & dead set against all radical persons for fear of offending prejudiced feelings; & it is now putting Cassius M. Clay forward, to justify the new mission of the College. Clay's early efforts were primarily for the liberty of these "Mountain Whites" - and secondary the freedom of the blacks by returning them to Africa; Fee opposed doing one wrong & right an other, and struck for freedom and equal rights to all - on this they split, and Fee appealed to the Christian world, with Berea the result. You can secure the ear of more builders - will you help us to stop this outrage before too late - Faithfully - J. T. Robinson.

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