Sunday
July 14. 1895

Little Compton
Rhode Island

My Dear Judge Tourgée

I have been all
this week in profoundest sympathy
with you illness and your per-
plexities respecting the Oasis. This
has been the most painful because
I see no way to let light on
the situation; your feeling that the
Oasis must stop is of course
a surprise to me, as I supposed,
not knowing anything to the con-
trary, that your mails were
bringing in returns enough to
supplement the amounts given
by Mr. Moot and Mr. Howard, until
the autumn subscriptions should
come in. I cannot understand
what cause has intervened to make

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his membership in the Citizens League so utterly without fidelity to your Cause as their President. This is the source on which you and your friends so confidently depended, that in view of his failure to secure 1% of the hundred thousand names on which you counted, makes me doubt whether it is worth while to consider the future as far as they are concerned. The receipts by subscription from all the thousands addressed do not foot up much in excess of the number secured by you in sending out the original 1000 Circulars - the experiment which you quoted at our first meeting. I refer to this matter for as this was the source of my confidence, in the absence of Capital it is natural that I should regard it as the rock

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on which the Enterprise is likely to ground. Tomorrow Genius could carry any well capitalized Enterprise to success; but without this, unless this Constituency can be counted on which is enrolled in the National Citizens League, the element of time, which must always be recognized in all such matters, would surely eat up such resources as we have had at command.

I believe now, as I have always believed that "The Basis" represents a line of publication-Enterprise for which there is a field and a large one unoccupied. I am confident that it is headed the right way, but I doubt if the securing of $3000 the needed amount as you say, would do more than postpone the day of reckoning with the constantly

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4 growing obligations of The Oasis:
These things are not said to discourage you - I am too deeply moved for you to wish to add to your burden by even an appearance of blame - but to point out what I regard as the crucial point of our enterprise - namely the unreliable character of the people who have enrolled themselves in the Nat^l Citizens League.

We have had more than the usual "good words" said of us, but whilst these help sentimentally and really they cannot be relied upon as an offset the obligations involved in such an enterprise. As to the reason assigned for the McGerald's getting into a tight place with their line of discounts, namely that it grows

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out of the attitude of the Bankers to your scheme of finance, I confess the thing looks to me 'mythical. The McGerald's encouraged you to believe that they and you could carry the matter alone; they find that it is not possible and doubtless feel that they cannot afford to stand in the place of publishers to a failing enterprise - There is no liklihood that the refusal of their paper by the Bank has anything to do with the matter, beyond an incidental remark by some one who does not agree with your financial theory. Now in spite of all that I have said I am confident that "The Basis" has a public, but I fear we cannot hold on long enough to find it.

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6 Your letter enclosing reorganization plan came this morning, and interests me. If the Commercial or the Express would take the Basis on as a weekly edition of their paper it would in Buffalo open up a new future for your Enterprise. But I confess I am not sanguine that they would look at the matter favorably. Of course with your feeling toward the Administration the Courier is out of the question, the Enquirer and Times lack Capital and are Democratic - The news would be able, if willing, but I cannot say what would be done by a management, so given over to the desire to cater to the groundlings. It seems to me your best plan would be to open up communications with Mr Warren of the Commercial; but as their Editor-in-Chief Mr Foster is away, it is

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I not likely that any quick turn-
round could be made, if they were
willing to consider it at all. Your
Republicanism is of their type, and
such a weekly addition as would
result would add greatly
to the value of their paper.
If you could get means to hold
on until you had concluded ar-
rangements with the parties in
the cities whom you tell me make
reference the likelihood of accom-
plishing a similar result in Buffalo
would be greatly enhanced -
But it would be well if some
young men who had had training
in newspaper work would undertake
the local interests and buy in to
the enterprise far enough to make
them partners in its conduct. I
believe that Buffalo could sustain
a weekly if it could be made for a
dollar and aside from Literary matter

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but Civic issues can be made very local. But to find the trained men, with Capital and the necessary Courage, is the difficulty.

I would be grateful if you would let me know how you are in health and what your further plans are. I look for your letter with keenest interest. Meantime my copy will go forward this week as usual. I need not say how deeply I regret that it is not in my power to raise the money we need or to supply, in any financial sense, the aid you so much deserve in your time of trial. It would be a great pleasure, if I could close write in a more reassuring tone, but I have no data on which to base a more confident prophecy. Of course not having access to you or-

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Irrespondence, I can easily
conceive that you have encour-
aging prospects for the future
of which I know nothing. I
wish for your sake it may be
so. Present the assurance
of my best wishes and kindest
thoughts to your household
And believe me,
Yours Cordially
Thomas R. Hicks

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