Little Compton
Rhode Island

My Dear Judge Tourgée:

Your letter received last evening was a great pleasure to me, as it informed me you are steadily gaining both upon the illness and the ill-fortune, which threatens the Basis. I have considerable confidence in the plan of issuing a weekly in Buffalo, for Buffalo, primarily; but I think it needs considerable Capital and one or more bright and enterprising young men trained to Newspaper work for the local detail. That department is a kind which needs a certain enterprising audacity added to a knowledge of the things which are in the office of a daily Paper.

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I note your answer to my letter in the particulars of which I felt moved by my disappointment to speak; and I beg you to believe that I have no desire to even appear critical. I feel in the success of the Basis a very profound interest. The part which is personal to myself is the least consideration; I believe passionately in the civic righteousness for which it contends; and my feeling for your enthusiasm and hopes is very sincere and keen.

The failure of "the Golden Rule" to dare your views is illustrated always when any great moral principle becomes an instrument to trade with. The inconsistency of this shining example of the Golden Rule, reminds me of an old joke in Punch. When the

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memorial statue was erected in London to the memory of the Prince Consort Albert, the sculptor made the figure of gilt-bronze and it shines so in the sun that no feature of the face can be distinguished — whereupon Punch asks: "Why is the Albert-memorial a failure? Answer: It was intended as a monument to virtue, and behold it is a statue of gilt!"

One feels a little uncertain, in gazing upon the Golden Rule, as to its exact feet and inches, when it is so overlaid by the determination to borrow its lustre from a popular success.

I wish you would send me last weeks issue of the Basis; the McGeralds forget with amazing facility. I wish for you always all good. Yours Cordially

July 19. 1895 Thomas R. Slicer

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