DAVID SMYTH. GEO. L. DOUGLASS.

SMYTH & DOUGLASS,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW.
ROOMS 204-6 SEDGWICK BLOCK.

Wichita, Kansas, Aug 28 1895

Hon. A. W. Tourgee

My dear Judge:

I want to thank you for your very complimentary mention of myself in the Basis also for the reprint of that little speech. People are apt to imagine that troubles over such questions are confined largely to the great cities. Here in two or three of our cities in this State there appears to be as serious a problem as is confronted anywhere in the country. The liquor and gambling interests are strongly intrenched and they constitute a compact, vicious and vindictive element with more real political power than is possessed by much greater numbers of people in other walks of life.

XX You are doing a great and good work with the Basis. In this field the harvest indeed is great but the laborers are few. Selfishness and gr[illegible] are still the great motive powers of human so[illegible] and while I think the average man of to-day [illegible] more humane and better man than the aver[illegible] man at any time in the past; yet there [illegible] tendencies in our present civilization [illegible] seem to "make" for anything rather th[illegible] "righteousness." It seems to me, [illegible]

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013

that the vast consolidation of business interests
constantly going; the massing of great enterprises
under one management; the constant squeezing
out of small employers; has a tendency to in-
crease the distance between employer and em-
ployee and to eliminate the humanizing and
softening element of social relation and personal
interest between the two classes; and to that
extent the process is a hardening one and
a bad one, which is not compensated for
by more cheapening of the cost of products.

As I see it, the leaven in the entire social
mass is the humane principle — the "milk of
human kindness" as evidenced in its thousand
forms — and one of the most serious things mod-
ern society confronts is the enormous commer-
cial development along lines essentially
unfavorable to this principle.

The cold blooded way in which
people of this country have settled down
to the idea that colored men and women
may be shot, hung, outraged and murdered
with impunity wherever local public
sentiment among white men permits
is one of the most disheartening
facts of our civilization. It looks

DAVID SMYTH. GEO. L. DOUGLASS.

SMYTH & DOUGLASS,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW.
ROOMS 204-6 SEDGWICK BLOCK.

Wichita, Kansas, _____ 189

as though human sympathies were absolutely dead in certain sections of this country and the heart of civilization had turned to stone in others. The indifference with which cruelties of this kind are regarded by the great mass of people is almost on a par with the feeling with which the iniquities of the dark powers were regarded forty years ago.

I have long wished that it was a part of the business of the Nation to protect human life in every nook and corner of the Nation. I should like to see an amendment to the Constitution making murder a crime against the United States and punishable by the United States; so that wherever the flag flies - whether at home or abroad - the American citizen could look to the American government for protection. We shall probably never see this; but it will never be right until there is some kind. ☆☆☆☆☆

Please put me on your subscription list. I had intended to subscribe for the Basis when it first came out, but the fact is that times have been so hard for some years in this part of the world that I have had to economize even in the smallest way. With the kindest regards, I am

Yours Truly

Geo. L. Douglass

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2012