Towner N. D.

30. March 97

Albion Tourgee Esq.

Dear Sir

I had some correspondence with you in Nov. 94 re Trial of Sam Smith, negro, accused of murder, and vindication of both Smith & N. Oak in an attempted lynching bee of 9. May. 94.

I see you rejoice, too, over Pres. McKinley's manly & statesmanlike position & his assertion of it.

Your hands are immensely strengthened.

It was a great help to N. D. that you published a notice of her good sense when she had time to think, but your complimentary reference to me, so kindly meant, brought

down an avalanche of abuse on my head, and pursued me during my whole term of office.

Well, well, that is only the fortune of war, and I never allowed it to influence my efforts to do my duty without fear or favor, but always in the spirit of that charity which doth not behave itself unseemly.

Since then I found Figs & Thistles on the shelf of my step daughter & I have read it several times, each time with renewed respect. A Fool's Errand was Maud's present to her brother Paul who lives with me.

My husband, E. C. Stevens, has taken the Inter-Ocean, steadily for many years, & "swears by" Bystander. He has a 61–65 Record, and was gazetted Lieut. in a colored regiment in Kentucky. Being a good cleak

article was copied into prominent State paper as answered by a long by-parte statement signed by 8 or 10 people prominent in lynching scrape the not-opening no. But I think as we have won, I will let it subside. Was sorely tempted to send on said article to you.

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He was used as a recruiting officer, and for months was Provost Marshal. So he does not show many battles but was twice captured.

He is now 65 years old, & desires & needs the local P.O. He is Deputy now, as the office is in our Drug store. We sell no liquor, hold no permit; it is a snare in N.D. and our new Doctor sells his own medecine. Moving is a trouble to old folks, and we could stay if we had the office.

I am Clerk in P.O. and our administration is admittedly of the best. We do not fear Civil Service rules.

But the same old party & its affiliates would like to defeat E.C. Stevens, & give the office to the former auditor, who was an excellent bookkeeper and a mere cipher as a citizen.

There are several points

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in the ex auditor's Record which do not make for good honest citizenship, but my husband utterly disapproves, & rightly, of asking for the office on the demerits of somebody else. He prefers to stand squarely on his own record, political, moral, financial, et al.

Have you any influence with the powers that be, and would you exercise it if you had?

Yours with pleasant thoughts
of your work & usefulness
Jean McNaughton Stevens

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