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# In Memoriam

Tributes of Respect by Colored Citizens of Chicago to  
the Memory of

Judge Albion W. Tourgee

Adopted by The Illinois Division of the Niagara Movement and The Appomattox  
Club and Presented on the occasion of the funeral obsequies at  
Mayville, New York, November 14, A. D. 1905, by  
Mrs. Ida B. Wells-Barnett,  
representing the above named organisations.

## In Memoriam.

**W**E, the members of the Illinois Division of the Niagara Movement, in regular session convened, here and now express our profound sorrow over the death of that great benefactor and friend of the colored race, Judge Albion W. Tourgee. In the vigor of his splendidly mature years, his voice is silenced and his forceful pen fails—an incalculable loss to our race and nation. As the greatest beneficiaries of his life work, we mourn for him as a friend whose faith never wavered, whose courage never failed and whose loyalty was free from a "shadow of turning" to his dying day.

We recall with gratitude beyond our power to express, his two score years of earnest endeavor to so arouse the conscience of the country that justice should know no race, color or creed. A courageous defender of his country's flag in time of war, he was no less valiant as a protector of its honor in time of peace. To the full extent of his masterful power, he urged the nation by tongue and pen to do its duty to every man whose foot pressed American soil. "With malice towards none, but with charity for all," he proclaimed that spirit of true Americanism which must inspire every citizen of this Republic, before our country shall attain to that high ideal of liberty dreamed of by our fathers and fought for by their sons.

May his work, unfinished, grow with the broadening spirit of the coming years: may his devotion encourage his earnest co-workers to persevere in their self-sacrificing endeavor, even though, at times, success is uncertain and defeat seems sure: may the nation whose highest welfare he lost no opportunity to serve, give heed to his words of patriotic pleading; and may we, whose travail and sorrow bore upon his heart and soul through all his manhood years, gratefully recognize his worth and work and do all in our power to make ourselves worthy of all his patient striving.

Finally, may the inspiration of his noble life be as "bread cast upon the waters" returning after many days to bless the nation by bringing to the service of the oppressor and oppressed, other great minds whose aim shall be to so strengthen the "Golden Rule" that it will not waiver or fail in its measurement of justice to the "brother in black."

Adopted at Chicago, November 12th, A. D. 1905.

## A Tribute of Respect.

**T**HE APPOMATTOX CLUB of Chicago in its own behalf and speaking the universal sentiment of Chicago colored people, hereby desire to express deepest sorrow over the loss of that strong and uncompromising friend of our race, Judge Albion W. Tourgee.

We fully recognize the invaluable service Judge Tourgee rendered his country as a soldier, as a jurist, as a speaker and as an author, but especially do we acknowledge our great debt of gratitude for the years of invaluable service rendered by him in his earnest effort to urge upon the Nation its duty to deal justly with every citizen of the Republic regardless of race, color or creed.

In this hour of distress we console ourselves with the thought that the great principles for which he strove, remain still an appealing force for justice. His unwavering advocacy of equal and exact justice, has left its impress upon the Nation and our prayer is that the zeal which urged him to such unselfish endeavor will inspire others to take up the work from which Divine Wisdom has seen fit to call him to well earned reward.

Despite the devices which oppression and injustice contrive, eternal principles of right must prevail and for the inspiration of others who may heed our country's call to its service we submit the creed which was the basis of Judge Tourgee's life work, as he himself wrote it. From his far away post of duty in Bordeaux, France, Judge Tourgee, speaking upon the theme ever first in his thoughts, in a letter to the President of the Appomattox Club said:—

"For more than a quarter of a century, I gave my best thought and energies to a study of race relations in the United States and the effort to establish conditions favorable to the enjoyment of equal rights, equal protection, equal opportunity, political and industrial by the colored citizens of the United States.

My reasons for devoting myself to this subject, to the practical exclusion of other personal interests, were

1. A love of justice and a consuming hatred of injustice.
2. An abiding confidence in the justice of Almighty God as the shaper of National destiny, not by physical and intermittent miracle, but by the development of popular forces through the evolution of general principles.
3. An overwhelming pity for the inconceivable woes of the colored people in the United States.
4. A burning desire that American Christianity and American civilization should purge themselves from the shame and stain of such inconceivable atrocities as sprung from the root of slavery."

Presenting this creed to the American people, as a call to duty by a voice from the dead, we take comfort in the thought that though our friend and benefactor is dead, yet shall he live through the inspiration of his work and words.

Adopted by The Appomattox Club at Chicago, November 10th, 1905.

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