

3015 Kalorama Avenue,

Washington, D. C.

February 24th, 1905.

Mr Thomas Dixon Jr.

Care Metropolitan Magazine,

New York.

Sir:

Not having returned to my native country after the death of my husband in May last until several months after the publication of your article, "The Story of the Ku Klux Klan," in the Metropolitan Magazine of September last, it was only to-day that I saw it.

I am astonished at the misstatements there made concerning Judge Tourgee. You say he appeared before the Supreme Court for admittance to the bar and fell through on examination. As he was a well-equipped lawyer before he came to North Carolina, having been a member of the Ohio bar--his native State--for some years, I do not think he could have "fallen through on examination"--whatever that means. That he could under any circumstances called the Supreme Court "an aggregation of solemn asses", is an impossibility. He had too much respect for his chosen profession to use such language in referring to a body composed of members of it. Indeed, I do not think he ever appeared before the Supreme Court for this purpose. He did go to see Chief Justice Pearson at his home in the spring of 1867, and only failed because the Chief Justice did not see his way clear to grant a license out of Court, --not on any account of his lack of knowledge of the

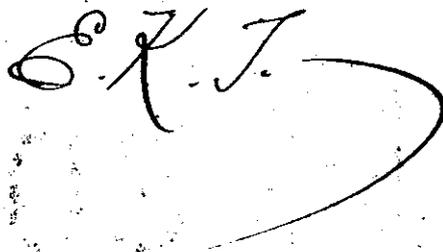
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law. You say also that he ran for the Legislature on the Negro ticket was elected and passed a bill through the "Black Parliament", etc, etc. As he never was a candidate for legislative honors at any time during his 15 years residence in the State of North Carolina, this statement is absolutely untrue in every particular.

Judge Tourgee had nothing whatever to do with Gov. Holden in his efforts to suspend the writ of Habeas Corpus in North Carolina, after the most brutal murder of John Walter Stephens of Caswell County by the Ku Klux Klan in the summer of 1870 had stirred up the law-abiding citizens of the State. He not only did not aid Gov. Holden in this matter but was unalterably opposed to his action in regard to it.

The memory of the brave and noble man you thus defame is too precious to me to allow an hour to pass by after reading these vile aspersions without asking you to give at once as wide publicity to the truth in this matter as you have done to the falsehood.

Respectfully,



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