

Primary Source - Mary Tape, Letter to School Board (1885)

Source: *Alta*, April 16, 1885, p. 1

*NOTE: spelling and grammatical errors are intact from original printing of the letter

1769 Green Street,
San Francisco, April 8, 1885

To the Board of Education – DEAR SIRS: I see that you are going to make all sorts of excuses to keep my child out of the Public school. Dear sirs, Will you please to tell me! Is it a disgrace to be Born a Chinese? Didn't God make us all??? What right have you to bar my children out of the school because she is a Chinese Decend. Hay is no other worldly reason to that you could keep her out, except that. I suppose, you all goes to churches on Sundays! O you call that a Christian act to compel my little children to go far to a school that is made in purpose for them. My children don't dress like the other Chinese. They look just as phunny amongst them as the Chinese dress in a Chinese look amongst you in Caucasian. Besides, if I have any wish to send them to a Chinese school I would have sent them two years ago without going to all this trouble. You have expended a lot of the Public money foolishly, all because of a one poor little Child. Her playmates is all Caucasian ever since she could toddle around. Is she is good enough to pay with Them! Then is she not good enough to be in the same room and studie with them? You had better come and see for yourselves. See if the Tape's is not the same as other Caucasians, except in features. It seems no matter how a Chinese may live and dress so long as you know they Chinese. They are hated as one. There is not any right of justice for them.

You have seen my husband and child. You told him it wasn't Mamie Tape you object to. If it were not Mamie Tape you object to, they why don't you let her attend the school nearest her home! Instead of first making one pretense then another pretense of some kind to keep her out? It seems to me Mr. Moulder has a grudge against this Eight-year-old Mamie Tape. I know there is no other child I mean Chinese child! Care to go to your public Chinese school. May you Mr. Moulder, never be persecuted like the way you have persecuted little Mamie Tape. Mamie Tape will never attend any other Chinese schools of your making! Never!!! I will let the world see sir what justice there is when it is governed by the Race prejudice men! Just because she is of the Chinese decend, not because she don't dress like you because she does. Just because she is descended of Chinese parents I guess she is more of a American then a good many of you that is going to prevent her being Educated. MRS. M. TAPE.