



Mrs Emma K. Sawyer
227 west 6" St

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LECTURES

SEASON 1875-'76:

The Coming Crusade,

To-day in Account with Yesterday,

"Out of the Strong-Sweetness,"

The Ben Adhemite Era,

Southern Humor.

FROM ALBION W. TOURGEE,

-LATE-

JUDGE SUPERIOR COURT NORTH CAROLINA.

Author of *Toinette*, &c.GREENSBORO, N. C., Nov. 17th 1876

My dear wife: It is a very dark gloomy day, - not raining but threatening it all the time, and I am a little inclined to be blue. As a rule, I have been in pretty good spirits, for a week past. Perhaps it was because I was so steadily at work. On any rate, I feel quite lousy now. It is a queer sensation to me, to have no future, of any kind, to look forward to and to be quite away from you. By the way, I am much troubled about what you write in reference to your monthly periods - I remember that for nearly a year now, you have been complaining of pain in your left side, at times, and I am much afraid of an ovarian tumor - I did not retire until 1.00. last night and then could not sleep from anxiety in regard to this - I wish you would consult medical authority on the matter - and let me know what he says.

As I have written you before, I am just lying still working away at my book about 14 hours a day and getting on marvellously well, so far as the copy is concerned - I am afraid the printing is not getting on so well. However, I take it all pretty coolly - I have just no money at all but will try and find something for the youngsters' birthday, if I can.

It is too bad that we have to be separate so long, and have nothing before us but darkness - I try to think it is all night - Nay, I know it is, but I only keep in tolerable

spins by not thinking of it at all. And the worst of it is, that I cannot think of it ever being any different. I can't tell you how it is. You seem so utterly separated from me. You know I have been about a year away from you now, the most of the time, and somehow, I have no idea of home left -

7. P.M.

But I have a very distinct idea that I have now the ailment "from who told the dog lover." I do not know as I can write any more for I certainly cannot think of anything at all. You must pardon my incoherence - I have been very free from the book for a couple of months. I have only had it over on twice but for the past few hours I have been sitting with my back to the fire or walking about with Steve talking to me and sympathizing with me - I suppose my blues of this morning had something to do with it. Steve is full of his Chicago project and if not unfortunately brings both smiles and tears to me, to have him plan pleasant times for us in the great west-ern metropolis. He has it all laid out that we are to keep house; he is to board with us and you are to have this and that pleasure as if it were all one fact accomplished. I do not build on it at all. In fact, I anticipate nothing and consequently have very little fear of disappointment. I think it would be a splendid thing for him and not a bad one for us but it is

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GREENSBORO, N. C.,

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not seem to take much interest in its accom-
 plishment - There does not seem to be any pros-
 pect for me, so far as I can see - I have not
 seen Keogh, or in fact, any one else, since the
 election - From what I can hear, I think the
 feeling is one of genuine sympathy and regret
 on the part of all - Of course, my old friends are
 terribly cut up. The election at the North shows
 them all that I struck the right chord and if
 I am compelled to stay here, time will cure a
 part of it, how much I do not know - As
 near as I can calculate, it will take until some
 time in Jan. to finish the book - We can get the
 copy ready, at the rate we are now working by
 Dec. 15 - Then there is the index - That will be a
 very tedious business - I do not know how long it will
 take me - I am afraid a good while - I hardly suppose
 that we can keep up our present rate of work for any
 great while - We have thus far worked from 9 a.m.
 until 12 p.m. with perhaps 1 hour for meals. I have
 not been 100 yards from the house in a week and do not
 know when I shall be - There is no knowing what may
 turn up yet - but I know that I can do nothing better

them to keep at work - Please do not talk about
doing copying, &c. I have a shrewd suspicion
that your anxiety to do something yourself is
that foolish notion which seems to have become
a mania with you, that I think you are in
help to me, &c., has been somewhat directed
thus far and I hope you will not undertake
any such experiment - You know that I will never
say no to anything you may propose, be it what it is
may - I have caused you too much sorrow already by
not following your wishes, but it does seem to me
that it would be a grim joke for you to be work-
ing by the copy which for another when I have more
of such work than half a dozen could do - However,
anything you may wish to do shall always be
just right with me. Of that be assured

Darling - Peter has just come in and says
he is going for the nurse so I send this
in order that it may go off tomorrow morn-
ing or tonight - God bless you

Yours

Albin