

E. K. Young



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CHAUTAUQUICOUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2018

FROM ALBION W. TOURGEE,

ATTORNEY AT LAW,

No. 3 MAHLER BUILDING,

Raleigh, N. C.,

March 10th

1879

VS.

My Darling: I have jumped up after  
an hour or two of sleep and hurry to  
write this and get it in the mail to  
go with that other letter of yesterday.  
I think I was crazy then - though I had  
no call to be - Forgive my weak-  
ness, dear. Don't be troubled. I will  
be cheerful and hopeful. It is only  
my pride and ambition that makes  
me so unhappy and restless. I  
know that. I shall work night and  
day on the index and then come  
to you at once. God bless you  
dear. I set what you want  
with the money remembering this  
always, - if you will be happy  
I will be content. If you are  
unhappy and discontented I  
am in worse torment than  
the damned - I can't help it  
and there is no use of wonder-  
ing or reasoning about it. There  
is the fact - I hope to come early  
next week - certainly the latter part  
of it - Hold your grip till that time -  
Also bless you - If you have not  
read the other letter please take the money order  
out and burn the rest - Yours Albion -

FROM ALBION W. TOURGEE,

ATTORNEY AT LAW,

No. 3 MAHLER BUILDING,

Raleigh, N. C.,

vs.

187

7- P.M.

My Darling,

I have been wondering about  
for four hours and am almost crazy  
with that terrible old head ache, which will  
come on when I think of these things - please  
do not think harshly or be distressed by what  
I have written. I don't know what it all  
is now. I know it must be bad for I  
am bad, and was bad when I wrote it. I  
can't either read it over nor write an-  
other now - I only know that I have writ-  
ten that I will come to you in two weeks  
as sure as I live, and so I will.

Ah God! I had hoped and dreamed  
so brightly and fondly that I would be  
there today and now - how differ-  
ent. The old dull desperate state has  
come again and I think I shall never  
anticipate anything again. I will come -  
Oh, dear, dear love, I will come! Though  
I know that I can bring you nothing  
but sorrow, and feel how much bet-  
ter it would be for you if you had never  
seen me.

You write, poor lamb, as if I had blamed  
you. I never did, - never in my life, but I  
only blame the harsh cruel fate which  
has turned every hope of my life into  
apples of Sodom, and now with a

a, damnable and fiendish Alchemy  
turns my very love into poison. I even  
dread to see you lest ~~it~~ I should bring  
you greater sorrow - I dare not even  
send my love to Lottie lest she  
should suffer for it.

It is now into the night  
now - I have not uttered a thing today  
anywhere I look I see only your tear-  
stained face and curse myself for  
being its cause. I will not think of it  
any more - I will come, though I had  
rather die for I know that I shall  
only bring you new suffering.

Why is not the world wide enough  
so that you can get away from my  
damned blustering malign influence?

Oh love! Oh Darling! What a hor-  
rible fiendish mockery it is that my  
love should be so much bitter to  
you than the hate of the whole world  
could be!

3 - A.M. Tuesday -

I will come, dear. Do not think  
of anything of the kind. I cannot complete my index.  
And I cannot if I think of the future at all. It makes  
me wild - Do not write a word about it. In deed  
perhaps you had better not write at all. Another day  
like yesterday might put me in Garrison's care.  
Let me do my work. I will do it as soon as I can and  
come. Oh Darling, if I were God, I would exhaust  
creation to make you smile but being only the poor  
luckless creature I am, I can only make you weep!  
Good-bye, I dare not say "God bless you" lest it  
should change into a curse before you see it - a