

Mrs Tourgee to undertake it, as a matter of sentiment merely. Beyond that it would be absurd for her to think of going. You see the fact that a United States statute is directly involved in the assertion of any claim of this character against either her or me, necessarily involves considerable delay, and the death of either of us pendente lite, would end your client's hopes just as effectually as a judgment against him.

So you can see just how we are situated. It is not a pleasant position; but when a man has moved along to the very end of the log, he must do the best he can. And when it comes to fighting for daily bread, a man or woman will do their level best before they will give it up. Of course your client or any other creditor has an inalienable right to worry me all he can. I don't blame him at all. But I have a like right to resist, and the only advantage I have is that do not have to fee a lawyer.

For two years after my disaster I fought and hoped. Since that time, I have not hoped. It would be sheer folly to do so. I never again expect to see my family have more than daily food and decent clothes. That much I shall try and help them to earn as long as I am able. After that they must do the best they can.

If I were in your client's place, with exactly the knowledge I have of the circumstances, I should not believe there was the slightest possible chance to get a single dollar by any amount of expenditure in litigation, because I am sure you cannot get any more than you have--a judgment against me, and if you had, all the orders that could be made, I know there is nothing to satisfy them.

I state this candidly, both for myself, and as counsel for my wife, because of the tenor of your letter, and in response to your proposal to compromise. Because of this belief, both for her sake and my own, I am anxious that the examination shall proceed, and the legal questions it will involve put in the way of solution.

Very truly yours,

*H. W. Tourgee*

P.S. I enclose a statement I had made up from the publisher's returns, in regard to the Brinton-Blair indebtedness, which is secured on the books published up to July 1884, and answers your inquiries. I think the residue is limited to Mrs Tourgee, but have no means of knowing. There is no prospect, however, that the income from them will ever meet the interest on the debt. Please preserve the statement, as I wish to make it a part of my examination when we get a chance to begin again.

Yours, &c,

*H. W. T.*