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W. W. BARBOUR

ARNOLD & BARBOUR,  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,  
RIDGWAY BANK BLOCK,

Ridgway, Pa., June 19, 1891.

Hon. Albion W. Tourgee,

Mayville, N. Y.

Dear Sir:--You will doubtless regard the request that I am about to make as a very presumptuous one; but my presumption is based largely on what I have learned of you from reading your works and from the declaration of friends of yours known to me.

A friend of mine has written a book, in fact he has written two books; the first was a drama "Elfrida", which came out about seven yaers ago, and a copy of which I send you in this mail. Being poor and without influence, he has not been able to secure the publication of the second work which is a novel, the object of which is to show up political scheming and trickery. The party, Mr. Risheli, after preparing the manuscript, became entirely discouraged and has turned the work over to me. I am not a literary man, but have read the book and like it very much. Now my opinion is that it ought to be published; if published would sell. It has been read by two of our most cultured citizens and heartily approved by them. I have had my stenographer make a type written copy of the manuscript, that it may be more easily read, and write at this time to ascertain if you would have the time, and would be willing to read the same for the purpose of giving me definite information as to its worth? I am satisfied that the author is a deserving young man, and if he ever succeeds in life it will be ~~it will be~~ in this line, but while I am willing to help him, I am not willing to encourage him in publishing a book which will not be a benefit to himself and to mankind.

If you would be so kind, and can do so without doing yourself an injustice, I would be more than pleased to send you the manuscript by express or bring it to you in person.

I realize that I have no claim whatever on your valuable time, neither have I any excuse to make for presenting the matter, except that I earnestly desire, as before stated to help this young man whom I know cannot help himself.

Very sincerely yours,

*M. Arnold*