

ALBION W. TOURGEE.

SOLDIER, JURIST, AUTHOR, HU-MANITARIAN, STATESMAN.

Monument to His Memory - Scholarly and Inspiring Address by Hon. Adelbert Moot - All Mayville Fays Loving Tribute to Her Distinguished Citizen. Mayville, the county seat of Chautauque county, for years enjoyed the distinction of the citizenship of Judge Albion W. Tourgee, whose fame as the author of a series of distinctively patriotic American novels is world wide, and whose devotion to the long unmerged race of this country entitles him to rank among the foremost humanitarians of the age. Wednesday, May 30, 1906, Mayville demonstrated herself worthy of the honor of this citizenship. On that day all Mayville was out of doors with bared heads to take part in the dedication of a monument to the memory of their fellow citizen - the veteran soldier, woman's relief corps, fireman, Odd Fellows, Tuesday club, ladies of the Eastern Star, and other civic societies, and the school teachers and scholars of the village and the vicinity districts. After fitting exercises in the opera house, John Dyxart, music by a drum corps and singing by the school children, there was a parade to the cemetery, a procession more than half a mile long, past public buildings and residences displaying the national colors. At the cemetery all knelt in a great circle about the monument to be dedicated. We give an illustration of the monument, which is a plain granite monument about twelve feet high, giving one an impression of simplicity and solidity, so fitting to the character of Judge Tourgee. The inscription is:

ALBION WINEGAR TOURGEE

Born Williamsfield, Ohio, May 2, 1838. Died Bordeaux, France, May 21, 1905. As one who loves his fellow-men.

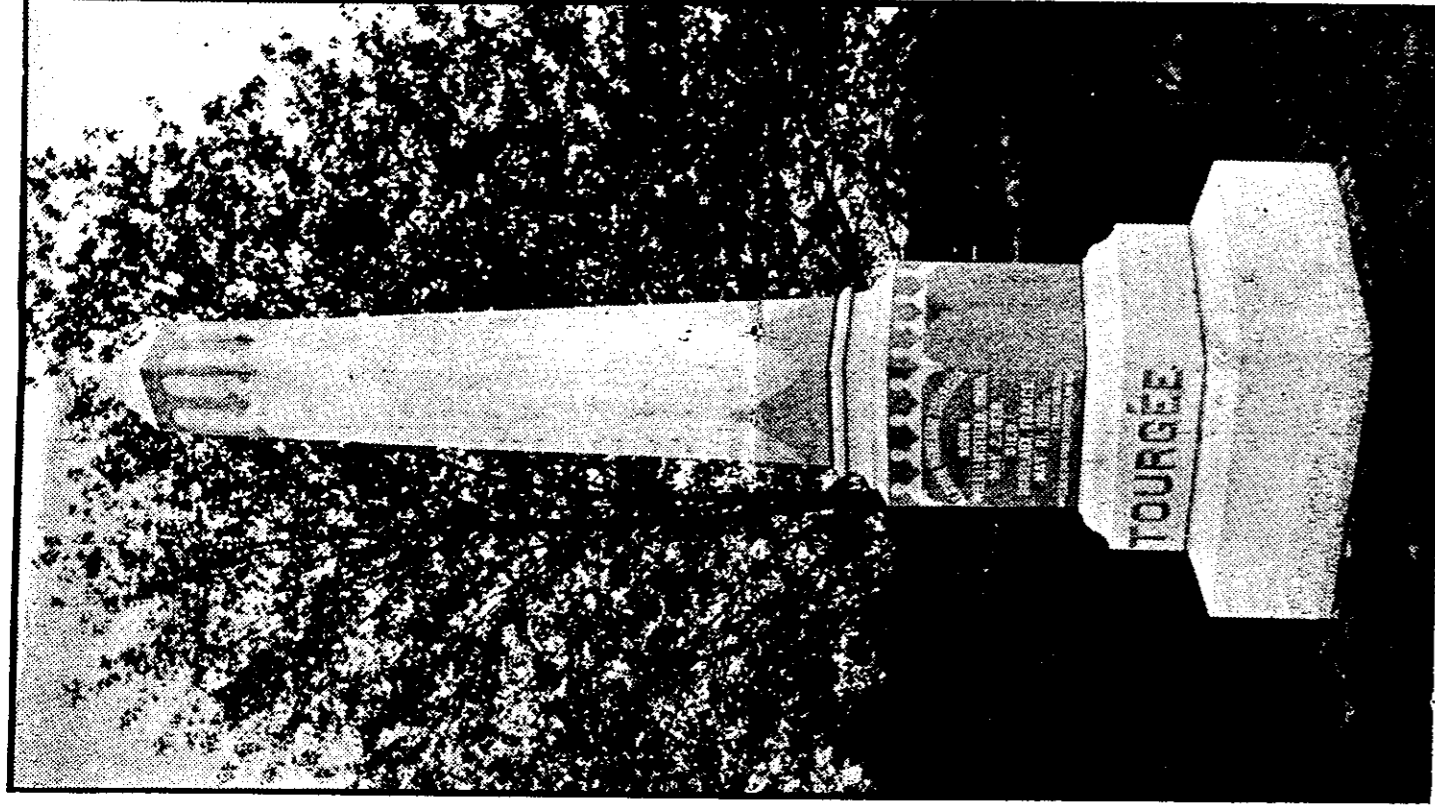
Judge Tourgee was cremated in Paris, and underneath the monument in copper casing, are deposited his ashes. Beside the monument on a staff was the American flag which enveloped the monument in a wreath of flowers. Throughout the impressive ceremonies of dedication Mrs. Tourgee stood beside the drooping flag, the daughter and only child, Miss Aimee, near by with Dr. and Mrs. M. O. Balknap, whose guests they are, and Mr. and Mrs. Dibble of Westfield, relatives of Judge Tourgee. Col. Hiram Sirbey, the competent president of the day, introduced Rev. E. A. Gnader of the Mayville M. E. church of which Judge Tourgee was a member. Mr. Gnader, paying personal tribute to the dead member of his flock, presented a little bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Tourgee. An English lady who picked it in the Alps and sent it as a tiny tribute of sympathy and admiration, to be laid upon the monument.

A Personal Tribute.

A. O. Bunnell of the Danville Advertiser, who had enjoyed the rare companionship of Judge Tourgee for many years, called upon to read two communications, made brief introductory remarks. Mr. Bunnell said, before this monument, for the first time he had come face to face with the realizing fact that his dear old friend was dead. He recalled his first meeting with Judge Tourgee in 1871 at the Judge's home in Greensboro, N. C., and told how each passing year since had enlarged his affection and love for this masculine and lovable man. They had been told that afternoon how Benjamin Franklin, the first representative of the United States to France, had honored and helped his country. What Franklin, the first representative, did for the United States in the past century, Albion W. Tourgee, one of the latest of representatives to France, had done in this country. If Franklin towered like a mountain above his fellows, so Tourgee rose like a peak from the level of existence. His was a prophetic as well as patriotic nature. His head was above the clouds of circumstance. He saw what mankind should be, pure, generous, just and free, and to that ideal end he worked to the last gasp of love and loyalty for his kind, a man in advance of his age. But saying others would speak for Judge Tourgee today, Mr. Bunnell read these letters:

Schoolmate and Comrade.

Los Angeles, Calif., May 21, 1906. Mrs. Emma K. Tourgee, Mayville, N. Y. - Dear Madam: I much regret that my visit to California prevents attendance at the unveiling of the Tourgee monument Decoration day. I knew Albion W. Tourgee well. We were boy schoolmates at the old "Brown schoolhouse" at Sheffield, Ohio, and later at Kingsville academy. We were comrades in the civil war, and frequently met in after life. He was a jovial and companionable youth, and exceptionally bright scholar, a brave soldier, and took high rank as lawyer, jurist, and author. Judge Tourgee had a power of initiative and original manner which, combined with a combative nature, sometimes brought him enemies from among those who did not understand or could not appreciate his motives. He was a man of high ideals, of noble impulses and great strength of character, and to admit, as has been charged by his critics that imperfections may have entered into his makeup, the result of an intense personality is but to acknowledge that perfection in human nature is an idle dream and that there are defects in the contour of the loftiest of mountains. The 106th Ohio Volunteers is so thinned by death, the survivors are so scattered and enfeebled by old age, and other calls nearer home are so imperative on that sacred day, that I



TOURGEE MONUMENT.

few but few if any can be present at the unveiling of the monument to our beloved comrade. Sincerely, Norris L. Gage.

In the Name of Colored Citizens. Philadelphia, Pa., May 25th, 1896.

Mrs. A. W. Tourgee, Mayville, N. Y. - Madam: Under directions of a committee of colored citizens of Philadelphia, I have the honor to present an urn to be dedicated to the memory of the late Judge Albion W. Tourgee with the earnest prayer that the same may find a place near his grave. Permit me to say further, when Judge Tourgee passed away, the humanitarians of the world were doubtless touched: those who knew him best felt a sense of personal loss. But we doubt whether any felt or had reason to so feel the loss of Judge Tourgee as the American negroes. At the time of his death, Judge Tourgee stood practically alone in his out and out fight for the equality of all his fellow citizens before the law without abatement or reservation. The colleagues of his younger days had been gathered to their fathers or covered into silence by the aggressiveness of christianian prejudices and the tendency on the part of some of us to surrender rather than to contend for the protection of our own highest interests. Judge Tourgee never swayed though all around him men in high places were abnegating principles for the sake of policy and making concessions to prejudice. In the forum, in politics, in literature, like a rock, he stood on himself, he stood by the principles laid down in the Declaration of Independence. Many of us feel that he was the last of the true blues. The present times are not likely soon to produce a successor to Judge Tourgee. It only remains for us to be daily thankful for the blessings that his life conferred and for the immortality of his exalted character, the richest legacy that could have been left to his countrymen. He blessed the way for the American people for generations to come, and in the distant recesses of futurity when some captain of the humanitarian host may be struggling against the ignoble will he found the footprints of Judge Tourgee out deep into the ages, and by these men will cling and climb. It is useless for us to attempt adequately to express our appreciation for the life of Judge Tourgee in words or to represent such expression by iron or stone monuments, as useless as it would be for any to attempt to measure the value of his services to his country and humanity at large. We, therefore, offer this simple urn in his name of the colored citizens of Philadelphia, as a token of their esteem. Very respectfully, Geo. W. Mitchell, Chairman.

Hon. Adelbert Moot of Buffalo, a close friend and admirer of Judge Tourgee, delivered the address of Judge Mooton, tributarly characterized by the Buffalo Evening News as "a loving and masterful tribute to the memory of the brave soldier, the distinguished author, the able jurist, the diplomat, the citizen." We take the liberty of copying the excellent synopsis of the address made by the News on the day of its delivery, regretting that we cannot do justice to the address by publishing it in full. It will undoubtedly find more fitting place later, in an extended biography of Judge Tourgee which it is hoped will be worthy write and faithful helper will give to the world.

Mr. Moot's Address.

Comrades, Fellow Citizens: Human life is ever erecting monuments to the loved ones who have departed. Pictures, sculpture, poetry and prose, reveal the forms and even the very spirit of those known to us only through history, poetry or art. To us the poet has made the love of Heloise and Andromache as living today as when they separated more than two thousand years ago. The love of Jesus for his disciples, little children, and his humble followers, appeals to us with more and more force as the centuries pass, because literature, art and the scriptures reveal his earthly life to us so vividly that we feel the living power of his teaching and his life to a greater extent than ever before. In letters that became public long after the death of Abelard and Heloise, we learn of the deep love of these human beings for each other and that love makes immortal the lives that would otherwise have passed into oblivion. So here today the love of the devoted wife and daughter of Albion Winegar Tourgee has erected a monument to him, which we join them in dedicating to his memory. The love of the wife, the daughter, the comrades in the civil war, and the friends of after life, is a love inspired by his long loyalties, and that love is his true monument, the monument which we see being the mere symbol of it.

We cannot bring back his unselfish thoughtfulness for others, his cordial and contagious laugh, his genial welcome have passed away. His unflinching sympathy, his undaunted courage, his gentle tenderness and his constant helpfulness are no longer with us. His hatred of sham, fraud, injustice, oppression and wrong in every form lives only in his work in the memories of those fortunate enough to have known him. Some of you, his comrades, knew the brotherly feeling he had for every one of you, his genial fellowship at the campfire, the hypnotic spell he could cast over all. With his gift as a born story teller, and his pride in his country and the great work done by you and other comrades in the civil war.

The wife and daughter recall in thousands of little things said and done the love, the tenderness and the loyalty of a husband and father who fulfilled our very ideal of true manhood. We cannot restore the blessing of his presence, but we can recall with the keenest pleasure, and joy the other and our own, his noble and fully living. These in their own way have given the monument that we dedicate, but his love, sympathy and courage, his loyalty to truth and his willingness to fight for those who could not fight for themselves, carried him beyond the home circle, beyond the neighborhood, and enlisted him in the great battle of his country for right and justice. He came out of that battle physically crippled for life, but mentally he remained strong to do battle with tongue and pen to make secure the fruits won on the battlefield. Millions were benefited and are still benefited by what he said and did. With him, indeed, the tongue and pen proved mightier than the sword in defeating injustice and wrong. He became a national character. Every newspaper was busy sounding his praises, and readers by the million were reading the thrilling story of himself, though he did not know it, as he told it in the inimitable Foot's Errand.

Nor did his work cease then, for, as editor and author, and the representative of his country in foreign lands, he despite the sufferings of his body, his mind continued to render service of the highest character. The busy world has moved on, and it is well that in dedicating this monument we recall the message of his life. He believed with all his heart, from his youth up, in the cardinal principles of the Declaration of Independence, that it was his thought at all times that however unequal men might be in native ability, that before the bar of justice all men are equal, and the government of this country was founded to guarantee such equality of rights. He thought slavery gave the lie to equality of right, and when slavery was abolished, it was his idea that every slave should have an equal right to vote, to acquire property and to enjoy the blessings of a free man in a free country. No man would have been more ready than he to concede the wisdom of an educational qualification as prerequisite to the enjoyment of the suffrage, but he thought that such a qualification could not be properly applied to the slave, if the poor white of the south, of ten unequal to the slave in ability, learning or otherwise, was to be excluded from such a qualification. If any are disposed to question his close study of it as a soldier during the war, and as an inhabitant of North Carolina for 16 years after the war. If it be said that many southern men have taken a different view of the question, let it be remembered that many of these men believed in and defended slavery, and have but slowly seen the new light, and are but slowly adjusting themselves to it.

It may well be questioned, too, even today, whether in the long run a better result would have been worked out than will finally be obtained, despite the blundering and the mistakes of both sides during the years that immediately followed the civil war. The south having finally, selfishly, even unjustly, required various qualifications as a necessary prerequisite to the exercise of the suffrage, in spite of the unjust grandfather and other clauses among them, time will probably bring about a true solution of the negro problem. As the negro accumulates property and obtains education, and shows himself worthy, his white neighbor will have no objection to his exercise of the suffrage, and if he has, it will do no good, as he will have the legal right to exercise it. Upon the other hand, the whites and worthless who are whites, who will not qualify themselves for the exercise of the suffrage, will be disqualified, and to them, too, the disqualification will be applied more and more rigorously, without regard to their color, as time passes and prejudices disappear.

In considering the mighty advance that has taken place in the solution of the negro problem since slavery was

abolished, we should not overlook the great work of Albion W. Tourgee, a years ago he was universally recognized as the white man whose leadership had done so much to give the negro that equality of opportunity, that equality before the law, which were absolutely essential to his progress in accumulating property, in building homes, and beginning that unending march toward the light of civilization which his white brother began centuries ago. If some negroes, like Booker T. Washington, have learned that in a democracy the truest aristocracy is an aristocracy of character and brains, and not an aristocracy of money, as some appear foolishly to suppose, may we not hope that in time the vast majority of the negro race, following their leaders, will learn the same lesson, and act accordingly? But would this lesson have been learned by Booker T. Washington if slavery had not been abolished, if he had not been equal before the law, and if his white brother had not illuminated his mind by education, thus making it possible for him to learn the lessons long since learned by his white brothers?

Albion W. Tourgee and the leaders who stood with him, saw the necessity for opening the mind of the negro with education, and the Freedmen's Bureau and private charity established before the war had closed. If we briefly consider the life of Judge Tourgee, we shall see how replete it is with facts, showing how thoroughly he understood this question, as well as others, how intelligently he labored in this field, and how enduring are the legal monuments he erected.

He was born in Williamsfield, Ashland Co., Ohio, May 2, 1838. The simplicity of his early life gave him vital power that prolonged his life, in spite of injuries that would have otherwise proved fatal. He became a student of the University of Rochester when that university was ruled by President Anderson, one of the great educators of this country. He enlisted as a private in the 27th N. Y. Volunteers, then President Lincoln issued his first call for troops. He was severely wounded in the first battle of Bull Run, July 4, 1861. So severe was the injury to his spine that his legs were rendered nearly useless, and for a long time he was only able to get about with the aid of crutches. His active mind craved mental work, despite bodily suffering, and he became a law student in the office of Judge Sherman of Ashabula. June, 1862, he applied to the governor of Ohio for a commission in the 106th Ohio Volunteers. He raised Company G of this regiment among his old schoolmates and neighbors in Ashabula county, and was made first lieutenant, Oct. 8, 1862. He was again wounded, in the battle of Perryville. This wound, and an illness that followed it, confined him to the hospital until January, 1863, when he again joined his regiment at Murfreesboro, Tenn. Soon afterwards he was captured with a detail of 100 men, and experienced confinement in Atlanta, Andersonville, Salisbury and other prisons, finally ending up in the notorious Libby prison, from which he was exchanged May 2, 1863, and ordered to report at Columbus, O.

He was always a man quick in judgment and steadfast in purpose. Five years before, he had met Emma L. Kilbourne, then a girl of 17 years of age, whose home was in Conneaut, Ohio, and he at once decided that she was the girl who should become his wife. An engagement followed, and as soon as Lieut. Tourgee was set at liberty prison and through the lines, Columbus, O., where they were married May 14, 1863. Ten days later he rejoined his regiment in Tennessee. That regiment participated in all the battles of the Army of the Cumberland, in that active campaign so advantageous to the union cause. In October, 1863, while engaged on Fort McPherson, he received another injury to his spine, which benumbed his legs and rendered walking very difficult, and he was finally compelled to resign his commission and return home Jan. 1, 1864. He was a sufferer all his life, and from this injury his death ultimately resulted May 21, 1906.

Mr. Moot sympathetically reviewed Judge Tourgee's life and experience as a lawyer, as a judge, and as a representative of the United States in its consular service, touched feelingly upon his experiences during the 16 years he lived in North Carolina, where he met and largely overcame the hatred of the old slaveholders by whom he was surrounded. His strenuous experiences with the famous Klirk-Klirk, his wonderful personal courage at time of great personal danger, his remarkable literary productions and the marked effect they had on the public mind, his life of unceasing devotion to his principles, his home, his country both at home and abroad, his masterful mind, his tact and diplomacy in the consular service, and the great love felt for him by all classes.

In conclusion of the services Col. Sirbey read Lincoln's Gettysburg address, a patriotic prayer and benediction of classic mould.

How sleep the brave who sink to rest, By all their country's wishes blest? By fairy hands their knell is rung, By forms unseen their dirge is sung, There honor comes, and palm-leaf grey, And then the dirge that wraps their day, And then, as they to their respective places, To dwell in weeping hearts, their day.