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Mayville, Chautauqua Co., N. Y.
July 1st, 1907.
Monday a. m.

Wm. A. Taylor, Editor,
The Associated Sunday Magazines,
New York City.

My dear Sir:

I think I have something which may be of use to you, but before sending it, I thought I would write you about it.

The article is called "The Two Minervas", and pertains to the former shipping interests of the port of Bordeaux, --with a photograph of a page of the Consular Register of 1795, showing the entry into that harbor of more than a ship a day from the United States during that year. The article also contains a copy of the Protest of one Wilkes Barber, Master of the ship "Minerva" from Boston, which sailed from London in April, 1800, bound homeward. After being a few days out, it was run down and captured by the French privateer "La Minerve", from Bordeaux. The Captain, Wilkes Barber, part of the crew and several of the passengers were taken aboard "La Minerve", a prize crew put on the "Minerve" and both sailed for Bordeaux. The next day, an English frigate gives chase and captures the "Minerva" with its French prize crew and makes for "La Minerve" also, but this ship being the better sailor escapes and lands in Bordeaux with the captain and crew of its lost prize. Captain Barber, after several days detention on the ship, is allowed his liberty and makes his Protest to recover his ship, at the U. S. Consulate at Bordeaux.

Judge Tourgee intended to get from the Admiralty at London, the details of this capture by the English frigate, and ascertain if the doughty Wilkes Barber ever had his ship restored to him, --in short the sequel of the whole matter--none of these things appearing in the Bordeaux Records--but became too ill to carry out this plan and so many others he wished to do.

To my mind the whole thing is extremely interesting, and Captain Barber's Protest in his terse and vigorous language, adds much to it, giving it the flavor of the times when these staunch little sailing vessels did all the carrying trade across the ocean.

It might interest you to know that in all the eight years we were in Bordeaux, not once was the American flag seen in the harbor though every other civilized nation of the world was represented among its shipping. "The Two Minervas", with the Protest, does not contain more than 5000 words.

I sent the "story" to the firm of Moyle and Henshaw some three weeks ago, but have heard nothing from them as yet.

I hope I am not bothering you for nothing.

Sincerely yours,

Emma K. Tourgee