

Mayville, N. Y. March 10th, 1908.

Tuesday p.m.

Dear Mr Moot:

Your letter about "With Gauge & Swallow", came this morn-
but not the book which I doubt not will be received by a later mail.
Thank you very much for lending it to me. I will see that no harm
comes to it and that it is safely returned to you.

You will be pleased to know that the Telephone Company came beau-
tifully to time by settling with me according to the suggestion I sent
you--paying the \$25., restoring the doors and locks, cleaning the Auge-
free
an stable--refusing only to give me the use of the telephone for any
specific time. To this, I replied that when they saw fit to charge me
for the use of the telephone now installed in the Thornein,--they
could simply take it out. For this I am wholly indebted to you. When
they found that so eminent a lawyer was advising me, they seem to have
concluded "that discretion was the better part of valor." Again you
have made me your debtor.

There is another little point of law I would like to know about.
The case is this: The first tenant in one of our apartments, without
saying anything to me, put up on each side of the kitchen sink, a sort
of wide shelf, for convenience in washing dishes, etc. These shelves
were attached to the wall by some very unornamental pieces of wood,
--but they were attached. They left them when they vacated--moving to
Janestown. The next tenant who has just left after a year's occupancy,
having built the house contemplated when he went it, took away these
shelves, the former tenant probably having sold them or given them to
him. Now, as I shall probably have this question come up often in rent

(2)

ing these apartment I should be glad to know if a tenant has a right to attach such things, and then take them away or sell to another? I This is a very small matter, but the walls are marred and I must put up some more in these places or have an objectionable spot in this kitchen--out of harmony with its otherwise good condition. Could you tell me the right about this in a few words?

There is another thing of much more importance I have wanted to see you about, but as I am not likely to have that pleasure very soon I make bold to write it. It is about taxes--assessments, rather. When I paid my Corporation tax in 1906--the first I had personally seen after since our return--I was surprised at the amount, and called for details. I then learned that I had been assessed on \$2000, income. As I had no income, I went to Judge Vandusen about it, who told me to go to the assessor and ask what basis he had for assessing me thus. This I did and was informed that the rumor was that I was worth anywhere from \$75000, to ~~\$100,000~~ and he thought he was doing a very kind thing to only assess me for so small an amount. When I assured him that he was entirely mistaken; that I had no property whatever except such as was represented by the Thorheim, he flatly told me he did not believe it. That he was sure that I had property that I was trying to hide so as to get out of paying taxes, etc, etc. As the assessor is a near neighbor I swallowed all this, only asking if he based his assessments of Mayville property on "Rumor", when in my case, knowing as he did my address in Washington, he could easily have found out by sending me even a postal card, that "Rumor" was way out of the way. All our conversation was good-humored. Judge Vandusen then told me as I would not be here on "Grievance Day", he would attend to this matter, and see that

(3).

this item of income was left off and also take some action for getting back the tax which I had paid on it, etc. When the call was made for the 1907 taxes, I found that he had had this done, but nothing was done about the rebate--or whatever it is called. When I spoke to him about it, he said it was a troublesome matter and that I had better let it pass. Judge Vandusman is Village President, and head and front in village affairs and is not exactly the one to advise in grievance against the Village. I paid my taxes and again called for details. I discovered the same assessor had assessed my property \$2400. more than that on the opposite corner where a man had told me that he had spent \$10,000 in making over his house. The daughter's little corner was assessed \$500. more than ever before and that in the face of the tenant threatening to leave because the house was in such bad repair. I inquired about other assessments in the village and found no one was assessed as I was. All this is not pleasant for me. I do not have exactly easy sailing to do all the things I have to do with my small income, and I propose to be on the spot this year "Grievance Day" and I thought I would lay the matter before you and ask you how to proceed to get my rights. I suppose the law is the same about such matters all over New York State. I know I have read a good deal about the New York millionaires "swearing off their taxes", but I think it too bad to so mulct a poor widow who has only enough to live on, or as I told a friend I was writing to to-day, enough for "daily bread" but not enough to have the jam spread very thickly upon the "daily bread".

I hope you will not think I bother you too much. No, I did not know Mrs Moot was in Europe. I am glad she has taken the long-talked of trip. When did she go and when will she return? Too bad she has not you with her. But then what would I have done if you had been in my numerous difficulties?--

Sincerely yours,

