

10442

Mayville, Chautauqua Co., N. Y. April 27, 1900
Monday a. m.

Mr Felix Berhel, Attorney,
New Orleans, La.

Dear Sir:

Your name has been suggested to me by your Collector of Customs, Mr Bentley, with the idea that you could aid me in a little matter of collection from an Attorney in your city, of a fee due my late husband, Judge Abdon W. Tourgee when Consul at Bordeaux, France. The facts are as follows:

In 1904--in February or March, possibly April--the Consul was appointed to take testimony as Commissioner in the matter of the Will of Madame Henriquez by your courts at the suggestion of Mr Chiapella, Attorney, 12 Carondelet Street, of your city. The fee for this was settled upon as \$50. When the Commissioner's work was ended and the papers sent on, Mr Chiapella acknowledged them saying the amount of the fee was satisfactory and would be sent the Consul in a short time.

Judge Tourgee died in Bordeaux in May 1905, and though Mr Chiapella has been frequently written to about this matter, by Hon. E. P. Gould of Erie, Pa., the lawyer who settled up my husband's estate, also by Mr Adelbert Moot of Buffalo, my own lawyer, he has made no reply whatever to any communications addressed to him. So I thought to take the matter in my own hand and see if some way could not be found to make him pay up this just fee. Would you care to take up this matter for me--and if so on what terms?

I asked the Collector for the name of some colored lawyer, because I thought in consideration of my husband's life-long devotion to this race, such an one might take more interest in serving me. It is a small matter but still the money is justly due me and I need it. Could interest be collected also?

I enclose a postpaid envelope for a reply.

I am, Sir,

Very truly yours,

