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Chicago, Mar. 2, 1909.

My dear Myo Tourgee:

I owe you sincerest apology for so long delaying my answer. For some weeks I have been extremely closely occupied, both days & evenings. It would not be true to say I have not had time to answer, but very nearly true. I have wanted to talk with Grace, & today for the first time since your letter came I have seen her.

I asked if anything had ever been heard from or about Mack. Nothing, she said, except, some years ago, and untraceable clue. I wanted to ask more, in order the better to answer you. But it seemed not best.

I never knew what the trouble was, but surmised it might have been gambling, followed by some crime. I never even talked at all with mother Hill about the boy's disappearance, but I did not refrain because of any feeling that she felt as you indicate. I had had no occasion to think she felt harsh toward him.

Your words of kindness in regard to our visit long ago stir sweet memories, with which you & Judge Tourgee & Lodie are connected.

My kind regards to Lodie, & wishing you all well I remain
Sincerely yours Ed. Nellis