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WASHINGTON

July 11, 1910.

FGP.

Dear Madam:-

Referring to your letter of July 8, we beg to state that the Copyright Office is simply an office of record. It does not issue copyrights in the sense in which the Patent Office grants letters-patent, and furnishes no guarantee of literary or artistic property. A claim present<sup>ed</sup> in the prescribed form for a proper subject of copyright by any person legally entitled to such registration is recorded without investigation as to the truthfulness of the representations. The office has no authority to question any claim as to authorship or proprietorship, or to give consideration to conflicting claims, and for obvious reasons can give no statement of opinion upon questions of copyright which affect the rights of contending parties.

Nor has the Copyright Office any authority to determine whether or not any given claim as recorded is valid, nor to decide any questions as to the scope and extent of protection secured by any given entry. Such questions are within the province of the United States courts which have sole jurisdiction in cases of infringement of copyrights.

We return to you herewith the two sample cards.

Enclosure:  
2 Copies. ✓

Mrs. Emma K. Tourgee,  
Mayville, N. Y.

Respectfully,

*J. Solberg*  
Register of Copyrights