

There have been prominent Americans who were not born in Ohio. But to be a native of that State seems to insure a fair chance of making one's name familiar in American life, when, besides all the others, a single corner of the "Western Reserve" produces three such marked personalities as Kenyon Cox, artist, W. D. Howells, literateur, and Albion W. Tourgee, the author and jurist, at present United States Consul at Bordeaux, France.

Mr Tourgee was a young sophomore at Rochester, (N. Y.) University when the first call for troops came in the Civil War. He enlisted at once; was badly wounded at the first battle of Bull Run; was discharged, and a year later recruited a Company with which he went into the service again as 1st Lieutenant of the 105th O. V. I. After Appomatox, the wounds he had received during the four years of struggle called for a milder climate than that which reigned on the shore of Lake Erie, and in July 1865 he went with his young wife to Greensboro N. C. Entering political life almost at once, he was an actor in and an observer of the crucial "Reconstruction" days so vividly pictured in "Bricks Without Straw" and "A Fool's Errand." It is a fact worth noting that the latter novel, which reached a sale of half a million copies in six months, went begging at the doors of half the publishing houses in three great cities before being accepted. Since 1880 until 1897, no year has passed without seeing some new volume of history, fiction, or of ~~psychological~~ or political import from his pen. His masterpiece is considered to be "Out of the Sunset Sea", published in 1893 during the Exposition at Chicago--a novel whose hero is an En-

English lad sailing with Columbus on his memorable first voyage. A "swashbuckling" romance of the first order, this story possesses the elements of reality that most of such novels conspicuously lack; and is put by historians at the head of all fictitious narratives dealing with that epoch.

Since his appointment at Bordeaux, consular business has absorbed Mr. Tourgee's time and pen, but we may reasonably expect the varied and often tragic experiences which are enacted before the eyes of a Consul at a busy commercial post in the course of official affairs, to sometimes crystalize into a vital romance of modern France.

Mr. Tourgee is of mingled Mayflower and Huguenot blood, and it is rather a peculiar circumstance that he is now a representative from the Great Republic in the very part of France from which religious persecution drove his ancestors three hundred years ago to seek refuge and freedom of conscience in the then wilds of Rhode Island.

(For farther biographical data see, "Century Encyclopedia" and "Who is Who in America.")