

Custom House

May 4th 1870

Rochester N.Y.

Judge A. W. Toucey

My Dear Friend

How are you Judge?

Are'nt you surprized to get a letter from me?
Let me explain. I went to Erie Pa to spend
the holidays with my wife's parents - D. P. Ensign and
wife - and while there learned of your achievements
and of the honors which have befallen you. There
is considerable excitement in that locality over
the reports that come from your section - some
who have gone there and returned stating that
the country is barren and unfruitful, others say
that much of it is good and reasonable and
fair. I now appeal to you for the facts, and
wish you to give me a true unvarnished state
of all that pertains to your section. We ought
to have the Erie and vicinity - I suspect through
your influence - trying to induce persons to go
there to settle. And I infer you then want
nothing more and nothing capital in your
and your section and districts.

been there and now will go. My father-in-law
a man of some means thinks of leaving Erie
to get away from that trying climate - and prefers
to go south. If he leaves Erie I will probably
go with him. I wish you to give me a full
statement of the nature of the climate, the nature of
the soil - its present condition and what it can be
made - what it can produce - tell me all the good
and bad qualities - the present improvements of
the country - what are the conditions of the res-
idences and also the public buildings - Then give
me the nature of the society there - and then
tell me whatever you think will be of interest
to one who is casting about for a new home.
Anything that will make living there desirable.
If we go there, we shall want a plantation
of from 500 to 800 acres. Are there any
such there that are good and very cheap?
If so, tell the size - condition - and price.
If I go - there are several friends of mine
here who will I think go too. They are all
old soldiers - true blue - and are all to buy
good homes.

You will think when you read

these that I am good at asking questions
and that I have taken the liberty
to ask your good nature freely - I will stop
here.

I am in the Custom House here and
am doing very well. Business around
is quite good - the city is growing quite
and times are generally prosperous.

Please extend to Mrs. J. the compliments
of the season and believe me to be

Sincerely Yours friend
E. P. Gould

To

How A. M. Tourge

Greensboro - North Carolina

