

Goldboro N. C. Jan 13th 1878  
Superior Court--Seventh Judicial District, N. C.

ALBION W. TOURGEE, Judge.

My dear wife: - Your letters of Saturday and yesterday came to hand today there being no mail yesterday - For the same reason you will get no letter until tomorrow - I might have sent you one ~~by~~ the conductor but I didn't think of it until too late - It is now certain that I must stay here all this week and next - I shall however come home during the time - probably next Sat. night - I was sorry to hear of Henry's mishap and of Freeman's illness - I hope neither will prove serious - As you say I have the advantage that I can imagine when you are and what you are about - I am pretty certain that you are sitting in the dusk now - gazing at the western sky and thinking of me - For me, I am in a medium sized hotel room floored with checked matting, with bed, bureau and wash-stand <sup>on one side</sup> and a round table on the other - The partitions are simply one thickness of matched plank, it is warmed by a little oven of a stove hardly bigger than my hob - but hot enough in all conscience - and has but one window - The contents of the table are Tinselt - a magazine - a pile of newspapers - pen and ink - five chairs and a pile

quite out of letter paper  
in  
2  
1

and then to bed - now you can make me out - I am for work? Oh no  
I remember you have never been here and do not know any circumstances -  
well papers is called

Journal

of state papers in the corner, with my gown  
and overcoat hanging on hooks in the door  
complete the total ensemble of the room -  
The room is not much more the hotel  
much but it is all feasible - everything  
seems to be clean and I have enough such  
as it is, and good enough of the kind -  
My principal article of food is raw  
oysters and bread and butter - I trust  
the butter is clean but take care not to  
examine it - too narrowly - If I eat  
heartily I soon become captive, so I eat  
sparely and really feel very well -  
We are having some very important and inter-  
esting cases to try - so I sometimes sit and med-  
itate of them - sometimes of more important  
things to me, sometimes just think lovingly of  
you, with just a dash of Sober (I don't think I  
regard her with as lively a sense of her ex-  
tremity as you do) and some times work at  
Foinette a little - Then again friends come  
in on people who want a look at me  
as a chance to see if I have not really  
got hoofs and a forked tail - I have  
had one evening at which and one evening  
out as you are aware - Now and then I  
take a walk - so you see there is not  
much variety of circumstances in my life  
here - Breakfast 8.30 to 9 - Smoke loaf and  
perhaps read or write till 10 - Lunch till 1 - or  
2 - in Louis recess; then work again till about  
six then tea and in my room till 11 or