

State of New York,  
County of Chautauqua.

In the matter of the application for restoration to the rolls and re-issue of pension, by Albion W. Tourgee, formerly an enlisted man of Co. E. 27th N.Y.V., now a resident of Mayville, Chautauqua County, New York.

On this        day of July 1889, personally appeared before me the        in and for said County, duly authorized to administer oaths, the above named Albion W. Tourgee, to me well known to be reputable and entitled to credit, who being duly sworn deposes and says in relation to his claim for pension.

"In addition to, and explanation of, the Application and disability affidavit filed herewith I desire to make the following statement. The injuries set forth in my original application resulted in paraplegia which though not always complete affected the motor nerves to such an extent that I was unable to walk except with the aid of crutches <sup>and with them only a very little</sup> until some time the next summer. As I remember now, it was about the middle of June 1862, before I was able <sup>even to stand upright</sup> ~~to attempt~~ <sup>to walk a step</sup> ~~to walk~~ without either two crutches or a cane and a crutch. During this interval the disability was not at all times the same; on several occasions for a day or two at a time, I was able to move my feet with considerable freedom, though not at any time able to stand upon them unaided by staff or crutch. During the rest of the time I could only move my legs by swinging the body--it was dragging with staff and crutch rather than walking with them. In like manner sensation in my legs was variable. Most of the time they were numb and nearly without sensation: at intervals there was a prickly sensation, and at <sup>for a disquiet</sup> all times ~~they xxxxxxxx~~ a sense of heaviness which made the few

movements attempted very exhausting. At this time I did not suffer so very much pain at the seat of <sup>the</sup> injury, but a good deal at the base of the brain with a continued weariness and sense of weakness. Excitement of all kinds prostrated me.

During the winter of 1861--62, ~~after~~ I studied law, after a fashion, with Sherman & Farmer, Attorneys, in Ashtabula, Ohio. I was driven about the country a good deal and made speeches and read poems at different <sup>sitting in a chair and carried to and from a carriage</sup> points in aid of enlistment. I had then no hope of recovery at all--none was held out to me by ~~my~~ physicians. Sometimes in the Spring of '62, some one, probably Dr Webster, urged that I should see Dr Ayers of Cleveland. The prickly sensation in my legs had become more frequent. I went to Cleveland, I think, about the first of June '62, and saw Dr Ayers. He gave me a prescription containing <sup>herb</sup> ~~ar-~~ strychnine in large quantities, saying it might possibly benefit me. I took it and after some little time found great relief and in a week or two could walk a little--a few steps would tire me out, and I would have to lie down. This improvement greatly elated me, I was anxious to get well and re-enter the service and had an abiding faith that I would--a determination to do it at all hazards. At ~~th~~ this time there were urgent calls for new troops. I was given an appointment as lieutenant, not, I think with any idea that I would be able to go into active service, but with a belief that I could be made effective in recruiting and other work of that sort. I continued to drive and ride about the country, and when the regiment was ready for muster, some time in August, I think, I walked without apparent difficulty beyond a little drag in the movement of my right leg. It required a good deal of effort, however, and I tired easily.

In the first hard march of the regiment, from Lexington, Ky. to

Louisville, Ky., I gave out, falling down insensible. I was unfit for duty for some days afterward. Do not remember that I was sick beyond mere inability to walk--weakness and heaviness of the limbs.

After the battle of Perryville, October 8th 1862, I was again laid up and was in hospital at Danville, Ky., for several weeks, <sup>and a</sup> including <sup>short</sup> some time at a convalescent camp at Lebanon, Ky. <sup>Junction,</sup> I do not know how long, having suffered the loss of all memoranda of that time by capture by the enemy and destruction of my personal <sup>baggage</sup> ~~baggage~~. Though I was slightly wounded at Perryville and was sick of fever at this time, a chief manifestation of disability was weakness and pain in the spine and inability to walk.

Early in 1863, I was made a prisoner by the enemy and did not return to my command until some time in June 1863. I was on detached service as Judge Advocate until a few days before the battle of Chickamauga, Sept. 19th 1863. While in camp at Chattanooga, some few weeks afterwards while on duty as Brigade officer of the day, in crossing the camp during the night, I stumbled <sup>and fell</sup> into one of the trenches which lined the fortifications and the jar incapacitated me from duty for several days. About this time a difficulty arose between the officer commanding the regiment, Col. Tolls<sup>e</sup> (whose residence is now unknown to me) because certain officers were promoted over me. I have no doubt that this was largely on account of my inability to endure the fatigues of the service which must have been known to all. I did not <sup>so</sup> look upon it at the time, however, regarding it as a matter of personal spite on the part of my superior. I therefore sent in my resignation. This was returned from regimental headquarters endorsed, "Disapproved", but with the statement that if I would state as a reason for resignation, inability to endure the fa-

tigues of the service, it would be accepted. This I declined to do: I was angry at being "jumped", but had no desire to leave the service--indeed, my one desire was to remain in it.

Some few days after that I was ordered to report to the Medical Director of the Division, whose name I have forgotten for examination, looking to my transfer to the "Invalid Corps". I do not now know what his report was nor am I sure that I ever knew. I did not wish to be transferred to the "Invalid Corps"; indeed I looked upon it as <sup>out of</sup> a disgrace and determined if I could not <sup>continue</sup> remain in active service I would not remain at all. There was but one <sup>way to prevent the transfer</sup> resource and that was to resign "for the good of the service", which I accordingly did. I collected all the papers touching this subject, including the correspondence <sup>with Col. Innes</sup> a few weeks afterwards and wrote out a full account of the matter. This package has somehow become lost or mislaid but these are the facts lacking only names and dates.

Since that time I have never been able to walk any <sup>considerable</sup> distance and have always had to exercise great caution to avoid a misstep or a jar of any sort. I have also been obliged to refrain from lifting any weight of consequence, not from muscular inability but because even a ~~very~~ slight exertion of this sort would <sup>often</sup> result in complete prostration. A number of times a fall or <sup>a</sup> jar has left me unable to move about for several days and on several occasions has produced more or less complete paraplegia. I have been <sup>all the more</sup> subject to such falls because of <sup>a</sup> certain sluggishness or uncertainty of movement of the limbs resulting from this injury. Sometimes, I have had medical attendance and oftener have simply lain upon my back and waited for my ability to walk to return. This ~~letter~~ has probably been <sup>largely due to the fact that</sup> because ever since it was first prescribed for me, I have habitually carri-

ed strichnia with me or kept it accessible, in some form. I also learned that the immediate application of ice to the spinal column <sup>often relieve the difficulty or at least</sup> would prevent the more serious effects of such an accident.

For the last four or five years, I have been peculiarly subject to prostration through any nervous excitement. It always effects the spine and generally my locomotive powers. As a public speaker, I have very frequently been compelled to sit down while addressing an audience or the court.

Of instances which I specifically recall of this character one was in 1875, and resulted from a misstep in descending a flight of stairs. I was laid up for a week or two though ice was almost <sup>in 2</sup> constantly applied. I do not now remember whether I had any medical attendance or not. It produced the same prickling sensation I had known in 1861--2.

In June 1884 I <sup>accidentally</sup> stepped off the edge of a sidewalk and was seriously affected for a long time--not only in locomotion but in nervous power. Dr Wm. Chace of Mayville, N.Y. attended me.

In the winter of 1885--6 I made a misstep on a flight of stairs or rather slipped off the edge of one and fell to the next in an upright position. Dr Chas. H. Thomas of 1807 Chestnut St, Philadelphia attended me. I was compelled to lecture sitting in a chair for the rest of the season. There has<sup>l</sup> been a great many lesser attacks of this sort resulting from similar causes, which but for the original injury would have been utterly <sup>insignificant</sup> ~~insignificant~~ insufficient. These facts have been well known by my friends and all the more from the fact that my life has been a public one. I do not suppose I have been able to walk a mile--certain not two in 20 years; and it would have been utterly impossible for me to have earned a livelihood by



manual labor at any time since leaving the service.

I have never applied for the renewal of the pension before, in the first place, because I have a very pronounced antipathy against receiving anything having the flavor of charitable support from any source. For this reason, I gave the matter no attention and supposed until recently that my re-enlistment in 1862 was a perpetual bar to

its renewal. In fact only increasing liability to such attacks as

*with an increasing frequency tendency to pain at the base of the brain have*  
I have described, has finally induced me to make this application.

*seriously interfered even with mental labor for a number of years have*  
I make this statement thus full and particular because I desire

that there may be no misunderstanding in regard to the nature of

the claim. *Being to the places in which I have resided being very remote from each other it is very difficult to find persons who have been aware of my physical condition during the entire time who are not relatives or members of my family.*