

Personal

North Topeka, Kans.

Dec 9 1889

Judge A. W. Tourgee,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My Dear Sir:

I write to you, first to identify myself and second, to ask you a favor. When I was in Philadelphia some years ago, jogging along in the pursuit of wealth and knowledge, I was employed by you as a stenographer for the period of two weeks or so, earning \$12.00. I used to come every day and take your dictation and bring it back the next day transcribed in type. I was treated by yourself and family, especially Mrs. Tourgee, in a most courteous and kind manner. I left your service with many pleasant recollections, and since that time it seems I disappeared from sight altogether. At that time I was a law student in an office on Third street; I attended one year's course at the law department of the University of Pennsylvania and after that accepted a position as private secretary to the editor of the Tribune, Minneapolis, Minn. I then drifted out west, travelling as far as Dakota and Wyoming T'y, sometimes by steam and sometimes on the heel-and-sole express.

At last I took up my permanent abode in Topeka, where I have been for the last five years, engaged in shorthand work and pursuing my law studies at the same time. About a year ago I was admitted to the bar and have since been practicing law in justice, probate and District Courts of Shawnee County, Kansas. My income is of the smallest kind, by which I support a good wife and one little boy, aged 2 months and 9 days.

I conceived the idea that I would like to be appointed U. S. consul at the port of Bordeaux, France, and during the early part of the year obtained letters of introduction from the representative men of the State, including Thomas Ryan, now U. S. Minister to Mexico, and Senator Ingalls of Kansas afterwards forwarded all the papers to the Secretary of State at Washington. No pressure of influence has been brought to bear upon the President to induce him to grant me an appointment, and I have not endeavored to do so, but the delay has occurred I believe on account of the many duties which the Senator has had to perform in his official capacity and no action has yet been taken, although he promised me that he would see about it when he returns to Washington. Now the favor I ask of you, is, if you do not object, to let me have a short letter of introduction, endorsing my application for a position as consul at the port of Bordeaux, France, (if it has not been filled) addressed to the President, Washington, D. C.

For a while past I have been reading up U.S. commercial law, international law, and laws relating to the consular service, and such other miscellaneous works as will enable me to render conscientious and efficient service to the State Department in the consular district to which I may be assigned.

Besides making reports to the home government of the condition of his district, and the other services incident to that office, I apprehend that there are other duties and responsibilities of a consul which are of a serious and grave kind. Viewing it in a sentimental aspect, I think an American consul ought to be an American gentleman; a man of tact, ability and good moral habits; he should represent in his person and bearing American progress, refinement and intelligence, and have in his mind the promotion of the peaceful relations and the commercial prosperity of the two nations. If I get appointed I intend to render to the country conscientious and efficient services to the best of my ability.

A letter of endorsement from you Judge might help to stir up Harrison Kelly and Senator Ingalls in my behalf, and I shall indeed be under obligations to you if you can see it in the line of your duty to comply with my request.

Hoping that you are in the enjoyment of good health and prosperity, and begging that you will present to Mrs. Tourgee my best regards and wishes,

I remain, most truly yours,

Jno. Lembke.

P.S. Will you please regard this letter as confidential and not for publication?