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OFFICE OF

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Beloit, Wis., March 20 1890

Judge A. W. Touge,
Mayville, N. Y.

My dear Sir:-

Yesterday I had something of an argument with a gentleman, on the Southern question. During the argument I referred to the mistakes made during re-construction period, advocating the theory proposed by you in "A Fool's Errand," i.e. as I understood it, dividing the conquered States into Territories, with a Territorial government. The same to be admitted as new States when the right time arrived, regardless of the old State boundaries. To this he replied, that it was impossible according to our understanding of the Constitution. We denied the right of the States to secede; denied that they could withdraw from the Union and fought to compel them to remain etc. etc. With my limited knowledge of history I was unable to successfully refute his argument. Will you kindly help me out, as it were? I will appreciate your kindness if you will do so.

(Over)

Wishing you continued prosperity I am
Very Truly Yours

G. H. Richards
Box 27 Beloit
Wis.

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY