

Lexington N. C. May 19, 1893

Hon. A. W. Tougee

Your letter and the book

"Gauge and Swallow" came to hand in due time. I am glad to learn that you are better and able to be about. If your malady was severe enough to stop you entirely from work, it was surely a malignant affliction. I have seen you sick, and so sick that most men would have given in under such circumstances, but your great will power and your close knit fibrous frame kept you going when most others would have sunk, so that being informed that you are able to be about, leads me to think that you are recovering from an attack of great severity.

I am greatly pleased to learn you are on rising ground and I trust you may soon be entirely well again. I should have known the author of "Gauge and Swallow" without seeing your name appended. The clear cut English and the purely original ideas, unerringly

to my mind, point out the author. Many  
many thanks to you for it.

I would like so much to make you a visit,  
but it is not likely I shall be able to do so  
any time soon, if ever.

My health is not very good as perhaps I stated to  
you in a former letter, but I have not broken as  
much as you might suppose. I am not very  
gray very little more than I was when you last  
saw me. My weight is about one hundred and  
sixty five instead of one hundred and eighty  
as in other days, when I got meat three times  
a day. I have quit wearing that blanket shawl  
but I believe it is about here yet.

If I could see you I could tell you a good  
deal about the Piedmont County that probably  
would not be wholly uninteresting to you. I can  
not write it out like I could tell it. The  
changes are many, many of the "original panel"  
have hung their "harps upon the willow"; and  
so we find, when the thoughts of by gone days come  
over us sadness comes too.

My wife's health is not very good, she does not

show age much. George is quite sick and has been all this year, he and his wife and two children are with us. He has not been able to do much since Christmas, and now is confined to his room. I trust he may soon recover, but he is certainly quite sick now. Caused I think by cold, he got when making some speeches in western North Carolina last fall travelling in an open buggy in that fierce mountain air was more than he could stand, and he took severe cold,

I send you by today's mail, a copy of the Davidson Dispatch, a news paper published in our little town, it contains a letter from Col. Henderson, of whom you may have a lingering memory. The letter was brought out by one that appeared in the Dispatch a few weeks before signed "Abe Lincoln Republican" in which the Col is lauded to the clouds. I tried to procure this letter also to send you but failed, our copy had been destroyed or mislaid, you ought

To see it to understand fully, the one I send  
This letter of the Col is surely a rare produc-  
-tion. and affords another proof that "Truth  
is stranger than fiction". The letter however  
is only constructively, Truth. for there is in  
fact a good deal of fiction in it. But  
am I using the right word when I say fiction  
is in the letter, it might be better to use another  
word, but I'll let it go as I have used it.

Will wonders ever cease!

I am not practicing law or I would be I  
guess if there was any thing to do - I continue  
to make a poor living on what little there is

The people have about got so, when they  
retain a lawyer they retain the fee also.

When you feel like writing, and have  
leisure to do so, write me, I am always  
glad to hear from you. Regards to all  
your family - Yours OBT and humble servt.

J R Bulla