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160 Lake St.,  
Chicago, Oct. 14, 1893.

Hon. A. W. Tourgee,  
Mayville, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

I have just read for the first time your "Fool's Errand", and noticing that the Fool was something of a letter writer, I take the liberty of following his example, and write you for your advice in an important life step which I am about to take, although I have no claim whatever upon your attention. However, the mere writing of this letter will perhaps help me in arranging my plans, so that there will be something gained and nothing lost even if your time is too valuable to admit of your replying.

I am a stenographer, twenty-two years old, and have been in Chicago nearly two years, most of the time in my present position with a large mercantile house; present salary \$75.00 a month. I understand book-keeping, having kept the books of a lumber firm in Cheboygan, Mich., for a year. I also worked a year with Mr. A. E. Chadwick, Lawyer, of Port Huron, Mich., keeping his books and doing his stenographic work. Previous to that time I taught school one year in Ontario. My father is an Ontario farmer.

I have had about enough of Chicago life, and the prospect of continuing for any great length of time in anything like my present position is not to be thought of. I would like to try a milder climate, and if possible secure a position in which I would not be so closely confined indoors. I am strong and healthy, thanks to my bicycle, and could do a good day's work at almost any ordinary labor. However, I believe my previous education and long practice has made me more valuable as an amanuensis than the general run of stenographers, so that I think I would be more useful in a new position if at least a part of my time were occupied in this way.

I now come to the point where I want advice. I have been considering three different courses:— First, trying to get located in California, with the prospect of a small fruit farm in the distance; second, going to Mexico to make my fortune in some way at present unknown, with which end in view I have been studying the Spanish language for the last three or four months; and third, locating somewhere in the South, securing if possible a position on some large plantation as accountant, correspondent, assistant to manager, or something of the sort.

The South never entered into my calculations until I learned something about life and conditions there from reading your "Fool's Errand". Perhaps conditions are more favorable now than they were at that time. You can probably advise to a certainty whether or not I would be able to secure a position there such as I desire. Any advise you may give will be weighed carefully, and appreciated.

Yours very truly, *Donald M. Donald.*