

424 Wash. Ave. N. Lansing, Mich.
May 14. 1899.

Judge Albion W. Tourgee.

Dear Sir: When reading "Merrill's Castles" - I was surprised to find some verses by J. W. Tourgee. Several years ago - about six - while in a bookstore here I met a peculiar person. He was examining some books, and was desirous of finding an edition of Keine in German. The request was somewhat unusual for one to bear in this city. The gentleman seemed very near sighted. He was of medium height, slender, thin and rather long neck. Full, dark, heavy beard, and

hair the same and voice rather low. We had a short talk and I found the man had a remarkable acquaintance with the books of the world. A few days after in passing a music store I heard someone playing a Mozart sonata, and a glance showed the same shabby man. I talked with him again, and learned a little concerning him. He was lecturing he said on "Phrenology", but there was not much in it; he told me of his literary work - said the publishers would not print his work and he would not write any different

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if he could. I told me of
some poems that his
friend ~~Dr~~ Paul Carus
had used in "The Open
Court"; said his name
was J. N. Temple.

I procured copies of the
Open Court and found
the poems - three sonnets -
somewhat remarkable.

I had several talks with
the peculiar man and
found that drink was
his curse. One day
while at work in the
state library he looked
me up: he had been drink-
ing and wanted to borrow
some money. I told him
I would give it to him
if he would not spend
it in drink, but that

I knew he would in
~~that~~ ^{his present} condition. He looked
 at me and said - "I thought
 you might befriend me".
 I told him that was my
 intention; he gave me an-
 other strange look and
 went down the hall - I've
 never seen or heard any-
 thing more of him until
 reading your book. He was
 certainly a remarkable
 man - Jennings Brown-
 ingized - in the only way
 I can describe him.

Now will you tell me
 if it was J. N. Temple
 of the book - if so, can you
 tell me something of him.

Excuse my writing to you,
 but the character interested
 me very much.

Respectfully
 Chester Wood
 424 Wash. Ave. N.
 Lansing, Mich.