NATHAN F. BARRETT,
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Febry 16. 95

Albion W. Tourgée Esq
Mayville N.Y.

Dear Sir And Comrade. Your esteemed favor of 4th inst was duly rec'd And the pressure of business has prevented my answering it. The town of Pullman Ill being one of my designs And as I am not as "known to fame" as you are it is necessary to state a little of myself. My profession is Landscape Architecture — the least known art — My business has been throughout the nation — the town of Pullman And Ponce de Leon Florida being perhaps the best known national work. I have engaged in it since the war. I go west at intervals And by passes generally by the Erie so I hope to stop off at Mayville And see you enroute — If it pertained only to my right I think with you that we could not afford to avail ourselves of your services but I think we are sadly in need of an Assn historical to cover all the Regts of the Country — I am one of the youngest veterans mustered out Nov 9th 65. 20 years old Nov 19. 65 The average should be over of my age hence 15 or 20 years more will find us mustered out of the world And who then can tell other than a hearsay tale — Now I submit that if a Board of the most prominent Soldiers living who engaged in the war should be formed And if you would become historian with a large compensation And the means And power to select your assistants we might hope for a history of every regt in the Country 200 Regts @ $500 = $100,000 = Dont you think the Century or Harpers or Cosmopolitan would undertake to present the proposed organization to the Country — a standing statement to the effect that each Regt was asked to subscribe $500 = would bring responses — I would like very much to talk to you of this as it is a pet idea And I shall take occasion to submit it to the Committee on history of my regt. I do not think you would be called upon for details — Your knowledge would enable you to perfect an organization — The thought appeals to me as I feel it would to every Soldier And by this unity of action we may hope for an exhaustive history while the individual regt would fail for want of money and knowledge — Kindly give me your impression And I will call on Mr Gilder of the Century as I know him And particularly

Mr De Kay Consul to Berlin whose brothers were both in the war. With many thanks for your kind letter I am sincerely Yours N. F. Barrett