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Private — Personal letter —

2807 West Walnut St —
Louisville Ky, Feb, 26th 1896.

Judge Albion W. Tourgée.

Dear Friend — Had you been able to give me any encouragement, before I left here, I would have talked matters with you which I am slow to put on paper.

There are complications in my affairs which you have not anticipated — but will materially affect any plan you have in view — in justice to yourself as well as to me you need to know the gist of the situation before any step is taken that may prove embarrassing — if not detrimental to all concerned.

I need give you the skeleton only, then you will soon grasp the situation. I know what I desire — but it seems impossible — rather improbable. You may sympathize with me and would gladly help me out of the mire, but it is an other matter, if, in doing so, you might be placed in an awkward situation — as the champion of principles contrary to your purpose. I am [illegible]ically strong — and for that reason I took the [illegible]ment of a friend's farm in stead of professional [illegible] Ten years of that life gave me confiden[illegible]

strength, yet the symptoms of nerveous rheumatism and readiness in taking colds when warmed up by work, led me to turn to indoor work, or a warm climate. These reasons together with a desire to get rid the influence of social caste caused me to appeal to your influence if it could be used without apology & embarrassment.

Since that time this friend died — a cousin of Mr Fee. The exposure etc caused her daughter to fall with Grippe last winter, and it was thought wise for her to spend this winter in a milder climate than Northern Ohio, where she spent last winter. This lady of education &c — was willing to sacrifise much to help me on my feet. She thought that we might have a quiet home in Cal — and free from the influence of ostracism. If the latter was true I would take chances on other points, but if it is not true, there is much risk for little — because, aside from milder climate — whose chilly dampness may prove as injurious as our cold climate, there is poor prospect for people of small means in that country of chance and wild speculation. Besides all lands are too high — do not produce more than interest on the money. Values are based on the ficticious value of [illegible] culture — yet an experiment, because the water question [illegible] d all — and that is the problem, but rich men own [illegible] land and can hold for their prices — which are

from $400 to $1000 per acre improved land, and $125 to $300 foot hills. Then taxes are heavy and falls on the poor man. All other branches of business too risky to put money into. Nevertheless I would take these chances if it seems necessary for health. The reason I feel that we would not be free from the influence of ostracism is, because there are some in the family who will never be reconciled to the situation, and through gossip with their friends in that, as well as other states can not resist the temptation to throw obstacles in my path, others will be loyal, but all would pray to have the cup pass - I can't blame them for I would do so too - simply because sentiment makes it a bitter cup. I had thought to seek a large city so that we would not feel the force of ostracism so much, should it come - for her sake, but the occupation is an other difficulty; - that is why I spoke of seeking to get in the real estate & insurance office of some one establish - but these things all require influence and money. I finally concluded that I might be of help to you in your enterprise providing I would not be risking an other

means you reasonably— and yet I hesitated
to ask you to consider a proposition which involves
so much—. If we come to your town there is
the risk of affecting your social standing. ~~th~~ on
the other hand I could not place her in a position
of a tag end, or hanger on. As it is possible,
should the facts come out, as is possible.
While you would be loyal and true to us, I
have no right to put you and your house in
an embarrassing situation.
When you know the facts, as I have outlined
them to you and you only for no one else knows
them. then you will be better able to advise me
from all stand points. You are a good hand
at problems— but this is the hardest you have ever
confronted, or ever will. I don't want to live in
Cal, if not necessary— too much sacrificed without
the prospect for much gained. The advantages and
occasional visits of some of her true friends would be
a comfort, even in a limited life. If the situation
is not too difficult— give me your full & free opinion—
If you can touch me— please give me particulars so I can
satisfy my mind. All you say will be treated in confidence
as I desire this by you— Ever faithfully J. T. Robinson—