Canton. O.
Jan'y 18, 1897

Hon. A. W. Tourgee
Mayville N.Y.
Dear Comrade

Your letter came to me on the last day of McKinley at Canton before his Cleveland trip. I have watched a chance to see him, and on Friday evening last I called and had a talk with him. He said he had rec'd your communication. I did not press the matter, but put in the best word I could for you. He spoke highly of you, but I have seen enough of politics to build no hope on a friendly talk. So many pleasant words can be used that sound all right, and the inexperienced often go away thinking everything is O.K. whereas nothing definite has been said. There has not been a day I did not think of your case. And I want to help you if I can. I am not seeking anything myself, so I am free to work for one I esteem highly as you

I see it is given out as settled that Sherman is to be Secy of State. As Consulships come in that Dept, the Secy may have the say. Also Pres McKinley may express his wish to have such and such persons provided for, I do not know. I will try and learn his intentions, and let you know the result. If you can get some "fixed communication" which will bear on the Secy, it would be well to lay it in for use.

Write me any suggestion you may have to make, and I shall be only too glad to serve you. Here's for the attempt, and may success attend you. With much regard, I am

Your own comrade

A. D. Bracken

I said I was not after anything. Have been asked so often what I was after, that I have given out that I am applicant for "Ambassador" to Timbuctoo. They have no mails there, so I shall be free from "duns" and can ignore my creditors.