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CHICAGO, TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1897.

Readers of The Inter Ocean will confer a favor on the publisher if they will apprise us of any news agency or publisher that has been

the block without falling off, and I can't help putting on airs."—Washington Star.

I'm meanly glad, and are not you,
If our mishap's another's too?
Since now I've fallen from my wheel,
I must confess I deeply feel
A joy I know's unmanly, weak,
In that the night has fallen eke.

—Detroit Journal.

A FOOL'S ERRAND.

A Story That the Manuscript of the Book Is for Sale.

Chicago, Ill., March 7.—To the Editor.—You publish in your paper of this date under the head of "Curbstone Crayons," statements as to the writing of "A Fool's Errand," by Judge Albion W. Tourgee, that greatly interested me. My impression is that there is some mistake as to dates, but this is only an impression. The point that interested me was the story as to the writing of one of the most popular books and one of the most important books of this era. "A Fool's Errand" had great influence not only in this country, but abroad in bringing about a fair understanding of the Southern question. It was written in such a fair spirit toward the Southern people, with such insight into their motives and character and with so much disposition to picture them as they really were that it was read in the South as well as in the North, and I have no doubt had much to do in bringing about a better state of affairs. The story in itself, independent of any political considerations, is one of the best pictures of American life that has been written. This is Judge Tourgee's distinguishing merit. The spirit, the workmanship, the color, the romance if you will, of his stories, are all distinctively American. He is the enemy of that sort of realism that has tried to make American life commonplace, and he deserves a good deal of the people for picturing our national life as it has been and as it is. These remarks all lead me to the point that is in my mind. I have heard or I have seen somewhere a statement that Judge Tourgee is embarrassed in a financial way through some business venture of recent years and that he has been compelled to put the manuscript of "A Fool's Errand" in the hands of his publishers for sale. It is a shame that such should be the case, but if that manuscript is for sale, Chicago ought to have it. Cannot Mr. Gunther, or some other of our collectors of old manuscripts, or the public library, or the Newberry Library, get hold of this, certainly the most interesting manuscript outside of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," of any work of fiction that has been published in America?

B. F. K.