9280

Towner N. D.

A. Tourgee Esq. 22. IV. 97.

Dear Sir

The enclosed letter will explain itself. I discovered last week by reading your Bystander notes in Interocean that I had written Elmira for Mayville, but I have been "under the weather" and unequal to my duties, and the postcard I meant to send to the P.M. at Elmira to forward the letter is still among my good intentions, helping to ~~forward~~ form that pavement of which we have so often heard.

A short note from President McKinley's Secretary informs me that the said matters have been laid before the P.M. General. Let me still beg of you to help a worthy old soldier and his delicate wife by vouching for our share in that lynching question put right. My husband is 65 years old, and feeling his years, though

he is fully equal to the duties of P.M. here. In fact he has acted as Deputy for nearly 2 years, but the P.M. exacts ⅓ of the income, and that is only $40.00 per month. The P.M. promised to let us have it all, if we would get the appt for him, and so keep it in our Drugstore, but promise & performance are 2 different things occasionally. The local Doctor sells his own drugs and we just make about $30.00 clear after paying rent. If we get the P.O. we will buy a neighboring building and sit under our own roof tree.

We are alone; I do my own work, and help distribute the mail - my husband helps public questions, and I help the children & am general organist for all services.

One of our blessings is the writings of Alton Tourgee. Long may he live to write.

Jean McNaughton Stevens.

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