

Silver Creek, N. Y., May 14th. 1897.

Hon. A. W. Tourgee,

Mayville, N. Y.

My Dear Judge:-

As our graduating class is small this year it has been decided to have an address from some distinguished person, and I have been requested to write to you and enquire if your services could be secured. In view of the fact that the school has gone into debt to quite an extent this year the trustees think that they can only ^{of the lectures} pay the expenses. I told them that I could give them no assurance that you would come ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~me~~ on such terms, but I write hoping you can come as we all should enjoy hearing you once more before you go to France. Should you come we should like to have you bring Mrs. Tourgee. The time will be either the 21 or 22 of June.

As ever your friend,

J. H. Bates