Francis A. Williams,
Attorney and Counselor at Law,
P. O. Box 864, Corning, N. Y.

May 14. 1897

Dear Tourgee:-

Please accept the congratulations of myself and wife on your appointment as Consul at Bordeaux. We hope that you will find the office and residence abroad pleasant and profitable. We shall expect when you return a new book, entitled "A Fool's Errant Abroad" and hope it will be as readable as your first book with a similar title. May you find no one "Making Bricks Without Straw".

I am still an unrepentant democrat, not of the Bryan stripe however. We anti-Bryan democrats seem "a feeble folk", but we are full of hope. You know when in college I was an out and out freetrader, and I still believe no more in the bondage of a free people to tariff masters, than in negro slavery. With me I cannot see why christain nations should be divided by state lines into Jews and Gentiles, Hellenes and Barbarians, Romans and Aliens. But I can recognize a good thing when I see it, and approve of the present administration in your appointment.

Very sincerely.

F. A. Williams

My dear Williams:

Many thanks for your pleasant letter. I remember of old your kids for what is termed "free" trade, as an economic theory and recall that you made the same objection to the separation of the world into nationalities many years ago. Perhaps, if the world was a single political and social agglomeration, the theory of unrestricted traffic might be best. But in my opinion, as long as nationalities exist, each must stand by its own. So, we are just where we were thirty odd years ago, each a firm believer in the same fundamental theory in which he then maintained, but each above all things Americans and friends.

The new position will be a fresh outlook for me and I hope a pleasant and fruitful one. Regards to Mrs Williams. Yours truly

H. W. E.

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