CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

Bordeaux, France, May 20, 1897.

Mr. Albion W. Tourgee.

Dear Sir:

Having seen the notice of your appointment in the New York papers I avail myself of this opportunity to offer you not only my congratulations, but also to say that I shall be most happy to meet and welcome you upon your arrival.

I think you will like Bordeaux very much, for although the city is rather quiet, it has no serious drawbacks, and is, taking everything into consideration, a very agreeable place to live in. For a literary man it also possesses a certain charm; being the home of Montaigne, Montesquieu and many other of France's most distinguished litterateurs and essayists.

While I, myself, on account of important business interests in the United States, could not have remained from home much longer, I take a special interest in having the Vice and Deputy Consul, Mr. Beecher, retained in the position he at present occupys.

Mr. Beecher has been at the Consulate in Bordeaux for eight years; having entered the service during the early part of President Harrison's administration. He has, however, resided in France for a much longer period, and speaks and writes the French language as fluently as English. He has, in discharging the duties imposed upon him, merited the

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highest praise and commendation. He is painstaking and thorough in everything that he does. He is diligent, obliging and industrious; and I feel certain that you will find him a faithful and unpretentious subordinate.

As I have already stated, it was not my own intention to remain in Bordeaux later than the coming summer. I should be extremely sorry, however, were my own retirement to effect that of Mr. Beecher, who through his long service, if for no other reason, merits retention.

Hoping to hear from you in the course of a few weeks, and holding myself entirely at your service, I remain

Very truly yours

U.S. Consul.