

Bordeaux, April 27th. 1899

Hon. A. W. Tourgée,

Arcachon

Dear Sir,

I have just returned from the Préfecture, where I had a very long talk with Mr. Bouffard. This is, what he said :
As a consequence of your protestation, the ' Administration Préfectorale ' ordered an inquest to be made, which of course, is far from being terminated. In the meantime, Mr. Bouffard, whose position, by the way, is considerably higher, than that of a mere Deputy of the Préfet, and who could have acted in this matter on his own account, (he says so), accepted the Préfet's suggestion, to seek an interview with you. In doing so, Mr. Bouffard affirms, he was simply moved by personal feelings of courtesy and sympathy, to try in an unofficial way, to settle this temporary unpleasantness. In order to show his goodwill, he would have even gone down to Arcachon, where, without doubt, the Commissary being a small officer, and a married man, Mr. Bouchard would have succeeded to prevail upon said officer, to go with him, and express toward you some words of regret.

As to come with a WRITTEN order from the Préfet, he very much regrets to say, would constitute an absolute impossibility in this case. No such command in writing can be given to the commissary

When I therefore notified Mr. Bouffard, that you were staying over on purpose for that ' amende ' to be acknowledged, as publicly, as it was offered, and that said ^{order for the} apology of the commissary would have to be given in WRITING, and an attested copy of this order to be left with you for transmission to the government, he at once gave up his intended trip to Arcachon, as he was unable to give you the full amount of satisfaction, which you were expecting.

As soon, however, as I will have notified ^{him} of your return to this city, he will give himself the honor of calling immediately on you, hoping by

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so doing to conciliate matters in a definite, and satisfactory way.

Under such altered circumstances, I thought fit to wire
to you :

Bouffard regrets written order Préfet impossible, consequently considers useless going Arcachon sunday, will call here.

If your luggage is still packed and ready for leaving, you will be able to do so at your earliest convenience.

Very respectfully Yours

Martindale