

STATEMENT.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,  
DISTRICT OF BORDEAUX.

The Villa Trocadero, situated in the Ville d'Hiver at Arcachon, was leased by me under the following conditions:

On the 26th of November, the said Villa was inspected by Madame and Mademoiselle Tourgee, in company with the Agent, M. Ducos and "la gardien" of the premises.

That no reservation of any part of said Villa, or its appurtenances was made on behalf of the owner by said gardien, and the statement made in the annexed paper to that effect is wholly and completely false.

That after passing through the premises, the agent was asked in regard to a small brick building in a corner of the enclosure, and was told by the agent that it was reserved by the owner. He was then asked if that was all that was reserved, to which he replied, "Yes."

That I entered into possession of said Villa in pursuance of the accompanying lease. Not finding the key of the bath-room among those turned over by the gardien, inquiry was made of her, for the same, whereupon, she replied: "The bath-room is reserved by the owner, M. Breton, unless I am employed as a domestic in the Villa."

Thereupon, protest was immediately made to the agent, representing the proprietor, with a demand in writing for the delivery of the key of said bath-room.

On being informed by said Agent that the proprietor refused to deliver the key, I requested Mr Martinsen, Vice Consul of the United States at Bordeaux, to renew such request in person of M. Breton.

M. Breton reiterated his refusal, asking,

1--How I knew there was a bath-room in the house, and

2--What need I had for a bath-room at this season of the year?

The first of these questions showed that he knew the reservation which he claims, had not been made, since such reservation could not be made without his knowledge.

The second question shows that he is wholly unaware of the importance which a bath-room has in the mind of an American -- whatever the season of the year. In my case, especially, being an invalid, the bath was ordered and prescribed by my physician.

As will be seen, the lease contains no reservation of this or any other apartment, and no knowledge of such pretended reservation was conveyed to me until the gardien made the assertion as a means of compelling me to employ her as a servant. Of course, if under these circumstances, the proprietor has a right to close this apartment and exclude me from its use, he has a right also, to close every other room in the villa, and leave me only the use of the halls and lawn and front gate.

I am very glad to submit the matter to the judication of a French Court. A large number of my countrymen are now contemplating a sojourn in France during the Exposition of 1900, and a considerable number of American invalids are considering the question of visiting Arcachon during this season. I shall be happy to inform them officially and through the public press, of which as a well-known author, I have always the entree, what they may expect to meet in the way of fair and courteous treatment by French landlords and equitable consideration by French courts.

*Alfred W. Tourgee*  
United States Consul at Bordeaux.