R.F.D. No. 2.
Andover. Ohio. 7/12" 1903

My dear Cousin.
Your kind letter was received about March 28th & I was very glad to hear from you once more. It seems to me that whatever of kindred affection may exist in the natures of the Fourgee family, it does does not make itself prominently manifest in the voluminous correspondence between the various members of the family. If my recollection serves me correctly, I wrote you twice during your years of residence

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at Mayville, but the letters reached your place during seasons of your intense business activity while you was struggling for a foothold high up where only mental ability turned the rounds of the ladder, their receipt was kindly acknowledged by your wife & so we ceased to know directly - of each other's continued existence.

I have often thought of you away over there in "Sunny France" where great fog banks continually hang over the coast cities & wonder if the disenchantment of youth has yet come to you. I remember your saying to me - in your very impressive manner (that always carried conviction with the language uttered) "ability & pluck always wins."

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In a certain sense that is true. If the ability is that sort of ability that helps a man to pile up his millions like the "Iron-monger" of Cleveland, that Baptist "Pope Pius of Coal Oil" or that "Scottish Lord" who coined the blood of 10000 working men into "Public Libraries" for the perpetuation of his fame, then only then "Ability & Pluck win".

Well! Well! I must put a check upon myself or I shall occupy my time this beautiful day in preaching instead of writing to my far away Kinsman.

No. My mother had no records of the Fourgee family. I found that Helen Benjamin had copies of the original records in the

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family bible & enclose to your address the copy which she kindly made & sent me.

Yes my brother Sumner & Sister Rozilla are still alive. They have not been granted the privilege of treading paths "flower spread." They have been forced to tread upon more thorns than roses. Sumner had one son cut in pieces by the cars & a grand-son killed by a gun-wound. Rozilla had the care of a husband for years, who had lost his mind & knew neither his home nor his wife. A year ago he was mercifully called away to his long rest & after

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many weeks of blank delirium she regained consciousness and has gone to Orwell to try to live with her only child – a son. Yes, of course I miss my mother from my home. I took care of her the best I could for 22 years after my dear father's death, and during the last three years of her life she was entirely helpless. Being always under the dominion of that unyielding & aggressive Spurgeon disposition, existence during the last few years of her life brought but little pleasure to her or to my dear wife and myself.

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