

Bordeaux, France, April 15th, 1903.

52 Cours du Jardin Public.

My dear Hulbert:

I enclose herewith a New York draft for \$130.71, and a pension check which I cashed for a widow of one of the officers of the Maine, both endorsed to your order, which you can endorse to Fords, Howard & Hulbert on the following conditions:

1--I have never known what is the precise character of that house--whether a corporation or a limited partnership. It seems to me that I have been told that it is a corporation, but if so have never seen the seal or any allusion to it in any instrument. For this reason, I was at a loss how to designate it in the enclosed contracts. If I have got it wrong, please have the papers amended in this respect, leaving them otherwise as they are.

2--A conveyance of the plates is of no value unless accompanied by a schedule of the plates themselves and a statement of the marks of the different boxes and the contents of each.

The plates in the possession of F.H. & H. and embraced by this transfer are of three classes:

- (a) Those in which F.H. & H have an exclusive right.
- (b) Those in which they have a half-interest.
- (c) Those which they have in possession as agents and for which they are only accountable as a trustee.

Please have these included in separate schedules to save confusion. State also where they are stored and attach an order directing the person having them in charge to deliver all or any

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of them on the order of Emma K. Tourgee.

This may make some extra trouble, but it is not as if they were sold to some one around the corner or as if one could be sure of some one to go and identify the goods. It is necessary to have the description so clear that a nigger could find the plates in the dark.

I know of nothing more that needs be done except to convey to you and your associates my sincere thanks for the pleasant relations that have obtained between us as author and publisher since J.B. Ford & Company undertook the publication of "Toinette" twenty-nine years ago. It is a long time to look back upon--so long that I cannot remember any serious discord having arisen between us. No doubt I have often given you cause for dissatisfaction. If so, I beg that it may be forgotten as I have forgotten any breath of ill-feeling I may have had towards any of you. I cannot say forgiven as there has never been any evil purpose and motive only is the proper subject of forgiveness.

It is a long time for "brethren to dwell together in unity" especially as an author and publisher. Perhaps the fact that we were not brethren may account for it.

The Fords, father and son, have left us dowering all who knew them with pleasant memories. We are all growing old and probably may never meet together again and in closing our business relations we practically say good bye to each other. We have met,

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regularly, but now and then for an ordinary life-time and have had a common interest. Hereafter, if we meet at all it will only be with the memories of friends of divergent interests--the separation that goes before the end.

The conclusion of this matter has been delayed for some weeks on account of the breaking down in health of Mrs. Tourgee, who you know has been in such robust health for many years. The doctors called <sup>it</sup> "Epuisement",--exhaustion, and ordered her to Biarritz for the salt baths--not sea-baths, but from the salt springs of the lower Pyrenees. She has been there but returned a week ago and now proposes that we spend the month of May there together. The thought of her being ill so terrifies me that every thing has a tragic cast. Yet in memory of the past and hope for a good future to each, we shall do ourselves the honor to drink your good health individually--and say a last farewell to F.H. & H., collectively--on May 14th, 1903, at 1 o'clock London Time--which will be hard upon 7 p.m. with you. This will be the fortieth anniversary of our marriage and you are therefore sure of being remembered at that time.

You know full well that in joy or sorrow you will each have our sympathy--a thing the Rockefellers claim is more valuable than gold; probably because they have less of it. Should we now and then intrude upon your memories we hope to hear from you, if it should be you are so minded. And we especially hope that if

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even sorrow comes to elude us, you will remember us. We can  
not lessen it but we can share it.

If there is anything else that needs to be done as regards  
the present matter, please let me know.

I am, dear sir,

Most sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. H. P. 1914", written over a horizontal line.

RECEIVED 1914

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