

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

52 Cours du Jardin Public,

Bordeaux, France, Aug. 24th, 1903.

James Carlton Young Esq.,

Minneapolis, Minn.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of April 10th and accompanying book, came duly, but as I was anxious to get at the "Homewood Publishing Company" of Chicago, which professes to have put out the volume of "A Veteran and his Pipe," which you sent me for inscription and which is herewith returned by same mail as this letter, my reply has been somewhat delayed.

Could you get and send me another copy and let me know who is selling the book? Friends in Chicago are unable to get any trace of this Company. If it is being sold by a News Company or other considerable Agency, that will do me just as well. I only want to take measures to stop the publication and make sure it is not resumed. This work was copyrighted by Wm. Dean Nixon, in 1885 and the copyright afterwards assigned to Mrs. Turgess. The publication of this book by the "Homewood Publishing Company", is therefore without excuse or authority.

Noting that you are collecting literary curiosities, I would say that I have one of a character extremely rare--the original manuscript in my own handwriting of the first 20 chapters or so, of "A Fool's Errand."

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The story of its preparation is in brief, as follows:

Early on a Sunday morning in the month of July, 1877, in the City of Raleigh, N. C., in which State I had resided since the Fall of 1865, after a sleepless night spent in restless review of events which had occurred since the close of the war of Rebellion especially in regard to the relations of Northern and Southern ideas, I wakened my wife and said: "I am going to write a book and call it 'A Fool's Errand.'"

I immediately rose, went into an adjoining room and that day wrote four chapters of that work. I continued working on it as I had leisure until the book in which I had begun it was full. It was a large blank book of the sort that was supplied me as Judge of the Superior Court for a "Minute Docket." I then wrote on separate sheets at various times and places during the next two years, often months elapsing without anything being written though it was continually on my mind. The whole was copied by Mrs. Tourgee for the printer and the detached sheets were not preserved.

This book is not in a perfect state of preservation, in the care of the "Public Library", Buffalo, N. Y., where I placed it for safe keeping before coming here. It is carefully wrapped up and sealed, but if you would like to examine it, I will give you an order on the Librarian, authorizing him to permit you to open it.

I do not know of another instance of the first draft of a book of similar importance being preserved in the hand-writing of the author.

Sincerely yours,

*Tourgee*