FOUNDED 1860 BY A.O.BUNNELL

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A.O.BUNNELL, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

9 Sept 85

Mrs. A.W. Tourgee
U.S. Consulate
Bordeaux, France

My dear good Friend I owe you many apologies for failure to answer your excellent & most interesting letter long before this. But I have been much absent from home seeking relief from trouble brought on by overwork. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your tale of your trying experiences, & of the courage of the brave Judge to the last. He was a man among thousands. His worth will become more apparent as the years roll by, & that is the irony of fate — to put flowers on the grave of the dead man, instead of laurels on the brow of the live one. Judge Tourgee lived for his country, but he also lived more nearly for his family & friends if that could be. I have been re-reading An Outing with the Queen of Hearts, the

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sweetest of love stories, & while reading the book my eye fell upon the sketch which I enclose, & which I copied in my paper. The American press at the time of the Judge's death gave many tributes to his character & there were few adverse criticisms of his work, & books. Thos. Dixon Jr. in the Metropolitan Magazine for September tells The Story of the Ku Klux Klan which he makes out to be a great law & order league, composed of high minded Southern patriots, the sole guardians of civilization in the south from 1867 to 1870 & its members the salt of the earth. He states that "a hundred picked men were commissioned to execute Tourgee & the Governor for this usurpation of power & throw their bodies into the capital square at Raleigh." And yet he calls the Judge "a big-brained, self-poised Yankee," "one of the few men in our state government at the time who had any brains or genius at all," "a prince among the judges who sat with him in those stirring days." But you have probably seen the article.

Oh, I hope you & your daughter will come home again — you have so many friends here, & it will be so much more like home where you three worked & lived together. I hope to hear from you again. With sincere regards, faithfully yours,

A. A. Burnell

I am impressed at the improvements [illegible] [illegible]. Can I be of any service to you in any way?