

ERIE, PA. Sept. 28th 1905.

Mrs. A. W. Tourgee

My dear Madam:

After two months absence in Minnesota and South Dakota visiting and hunting, I returned yesterday and found your postal awaiting me. I was right glad to receive it. The fact is that it was over two weeks after the death of your dear husband before I heard of it. This was owing to my being out of the city at the time. I delayed writing from time to time hoping that I might learn where to address you. For I assumed that you would at once leave Bordeaux. Upon reflection I see that I acted foolishly, for I might have known that a letter sent you there would have been forwarded to you if you were away. However foolishly I may have acted in the past, I will write promptly now. The death of the Judge was deeply felt by all of his many friends here, and none seemed to anticipate it, although all knew that he had been in poor health for a long time. Yet he had such pluck and nerve that his friends had come to think (almost) that death could not claim him without his consent. But his sufferings had been so great, and endured by him so long that I cannot but think that he sometimes wished to go.

I attended a reunion of the old pupils of Kingsville Academy in July last, and it would have done your heart good to have heard the almost universal expressions of sorrow at the death of their old friend and school-mate. Nearly all of the speakers paid noble tributes to his memory, and his noble and useful life, as well as to his exalted talents.

I know that the future must look dark to you, but you are not one of the kind that gives up. Remember that you have the blessed memory of a long and happy life with a grand man, and have shared with him the many struggles and successes of life, and these cannot be taken away from you. And while we mourn for the dead, we must never forget that we live for the living.

(over)

I shall be glad to hear from you and learn what your future plans are.
You speak of the illness of your daughter; I sincerely hope that it is
only temporary.

With best wishes for yourself and daughter, and great sympathy for you
both, I am

Most heartily and sincerely yours.

E. P. Gould