

**THE MAN WHO
OUTLIVED HIMSELF**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649643127

The Man Who Outlived Himself by Albion W. Tourgée

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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ALBION W. TOURGÉE

**THE MAN WHO
OUTLIVED HIMSELF**

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ALBION W. TOURGÉE
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The Man Who
Outlived Himself

BY

ALBION W. TOURGÉE

Author of "A Fool's Errand: By One of the Fools."

NEW YORK: FORDS, HOWARD,
AND HULBERT 1898

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The Man Who Outlived Himself.

INTRODUCTION.

THE name of one of the victims of the holocaust at the Charity Fair in Paris recalled to my mind the fact that less than a year ago I received, by express, a package, accompanied by this note :

“MY DEAR FRIEND: Thirty-odd years ago we were companions in misfortune, in more than one of the overcrowded pens in which the Confederacy immured its prisoners of war. You will not recognize me, for the name hereto affixed is not the one by which you knew me. If I were to use the name familiar to you I fear your curiosity—perhaps your very incredulity—might lead you to break the seal of the accompanying packet, even despite my solemn injunction to leave the same intact. For the same reason, I dare

6 The Don Quixote Outlived Himself.

not more fully identify myself, but will only say that for many months I slept within arm's length of you upon the crowded floor of Libby Prison, and passed many days in guessing out with you the words of Don Quixote, in the original Spanish, from a volume which by some strange chance you brought with you when you came to share our quarters in the old Military Prison at Atlanta.

"There were six of us who undertook the study of the noble Castilian tongue under most peculiar conditions. We were not very well equipped according to the notions of the schools, having but three books, if I remember rightly—the immortal story of Cervantes, a small Spanish-French dictionary, and a Spanish Testament, with a vocabulary attached. You generally held the text, by reason of your proprietorship of the books, I suppose, or perhaps because you had some advantage over the others in having gathered knowledge of the pronunciation from a previous brief companionship with one whose authority on the subject was unquestionable.

"When we were transferred to Libby, where, as you will recollect, we arrived in the midst of a severe snow-storm, five of us, you

among the number, were assigned to the same room. Bateman, separated from us by reason of a difference in rank, we never saw again. Of the remaining five, you believe yourself to be the only one alive, but I do not doubt that the facts I have stated will convince you that one more of this quintet of friends, bound by such peculiar ties, is still extant. Which one it is must remain a mystery until he also has passed beyond the bourn from which no traveler returns.

"The accompanying sealed package contains a true account of a life strangely eventful in its experiences. I am just sailing for a vacation, which I expect will last for some years. During that time, I hope to visit the scenes of the life of that Knight of La Mancha, whose adventures we first traced together. I shall think of you often, and may communicate with you from time to time. It is because of the facts I have related that I intrust the secret of my life to you. I know it will be faithfully preserved.

"Should I return, I shall ask to have this package remitted to me with its seals unbroken. Should I not be so fortunate, you will open it and make such disposition of its con-