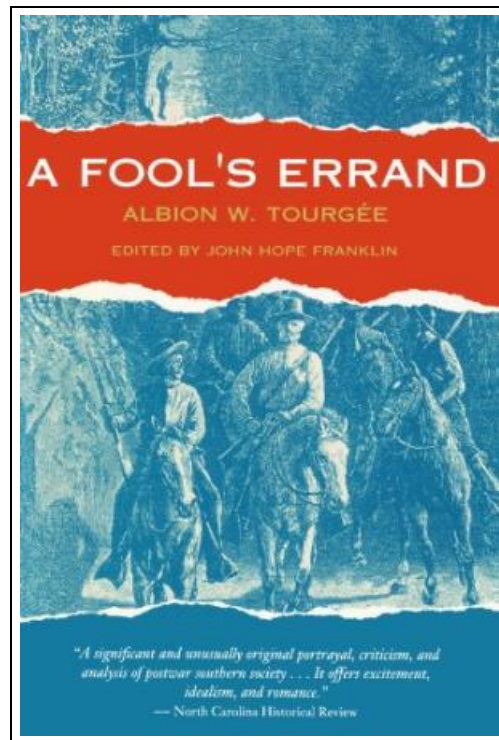


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A FOOL S ERRAND



Harvard, United States, 1974. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 211 x 139 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. What was a carpetbagger? Albion W. Tourgee was called one, and he wrote, To the southern mind it meant a scion of the North, a son of an abolitionist, a creature of the conqueror, a witness to their defeat, a mark of their degradation: to them he was hateful, because he recalled all of evil or of shame they had ever known . To the Northern mind, however, the word had no vicarious significance. To their apprehension, the hatred was purely personal, and without regard to race or nativity. They thought (foolish creatures!) that it was meant to apply solely to those, who, without any visible means of support, lingering in the wake of a victorious army, preyed upon the conquered people. Tourgee s novel, originally published in 1879 anonymously as A Fool s Errand, By One of the Fools, is not strictly autobiographical, though it draws on Tourgee s own experiences in the South. In the story Comfort Servosse, a Northerner of French ancestry, moves to a Southern state for his health and in the hope of making his fortune. These were also Tourgee s motives for moving South. Servosse is caught up in a variety of experiences that make apparent the deep misunderstanding between North and South, and expresses opinions on the South s intolerance, the treatment of the Negro, Reconstruction, and other issues that probably are the opinions of Tourgee himself. Reconstruction was a failure, he said, so far as it attempted to unify the nation, to make one people in fact of what had been one only in name before the convulsion of Civil War. It was a failure, too, so far as it attempted to fix and...



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