

Franklin Ford Collection

edited by
Dominique Trudel &
Juliette De Maeyer

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FRANKLIN FORD COLLECTION

A MEDIASTUDIES.PRESS PUBLIC DOMAIN EDITION

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Banding Together the Leading Newspapers

FRANKLIN FORD

Letter to Edward Atkinson sent from
New Orleans ([doi](#) | [original pdf](#))

Memorandum

FROM FRANKLIN FORD

CENTRAL OFFICE, NEW YORK

New Orleans, April 13th, 1887

Edward Atkinson Esq.¹
Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

I have got thus far in the work of visiting the chief intelligence centres. I have come from Chicago by way of St. Paul, Omaha, Cheyenne, Denver, Leadville, Kansas City, St. Louis, Memphis and Nashville. I go from here to Galveston. From there I shall return to New York by way of Birmingham, Atlanta, Savannah and Charleston. I have succeeded in banding together the leading newspapers to receive intelligence from New York. I shall begin by sending out matter for publication which will bear mail transportation. You know I am relying upon you for valuable assistance. I can handle now to a greater advantage than ever before everything that you may write, save at times the more elaborate matters and that too. I shall see you in Boston soon after reaching New York. I expect to be in New York about April 25th at the latest.

Yours, very truly,
Franklin Ford.

¹ [Edward Atkinson (1827–1905) was a cotton manufacturer, economist, political activist, and inventor. When his cotton mills began to fail in the mid-1870s, he entered the railroad industry and later worked as President of the Boston Manufacturers Mutual Insurance Company. Known for his abolitionist involvement with the Free Soil Party and the Boston Vigilance Committee, he also founded the Anti-Imperialist League, which opposed the American annexation of the Philippines in the late 1890s. Based on an in-depth study of cooking (energy consumption costs, food chemistry, nutritional intake, etc.), he designed the “Aladdin Cooker,” a device which prefigures the modern crockpot. He was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1879. The correspondence of Ford and Atkinson lasted from 1885 to 1889. It covered a crucial period during which Ford quit *Bradstreet's* (to which Atkinson contributed articles) and tried to initiate practical attempts at reforming the press. Among other topics, they discussed the launch of a specialized trade paper to be titled *Food*.]