



Rochester, N.Y. February, 21, 1887

My dear sir:

Sometime ago I had the pleasure of corresponding with you in regard to some literary matter for The Cosmopolitan. The courtesy with which you treated me has emboldened me to write to you in regard to another matter, hoping that you will be kind enough to favor me with a reply.

You have probably noticed in the newspapers that there has been some talk about the removal of The Cosmopolitan to New York city. At first the matter was not very seriously entertained, but now it has come up in such a way that we must make a decision of some kind.

One of the great arguments in favor of a removal to that city, is based upon an interview with you, published I think, in the Philadelphia Press when you went with The Continent to New York city. If I remember aright you said that there were two reasons why you took this step. The first one was, that New York presented better distributing facilities than any other city. The second was, that publication in New York gave your magazine a prestige that it could not possibly get outside of that city; and that the atmosphere of the city was much more favorable to the literary matter that you were placing before the public, than Philadel-



Rochester, N.Y. 188

phia.

Have I stated your position correctly? At the time of your removal I was a writer on The Democrat and Chronicle of this city, and reproduced in an editorial article your reasons for your change, but it was so long ago that my memory of what you said is rather dim. I am desirous of having it refreshed by you. Is it still your opinion, that a magazine must be published in New York in order to reach its highest success from both a business, literary, and artistic point of view? If it is not an impertinent question, I should be pleased to know what the effect of your removal from Philadelphia was upon the fortunes of the Continent—was it favorable or unfavorable, and in what respect was it favorable or unfavorable?

I shall esteem it a very great favor to hear from you on this subject and whatever you may see fit to write I shall be pleased to consider strictly confidential.

Most respectfully and truly yours,

Hon. Albion W. Tourgee,
Mayville,

Frank P. Smith

N. Y.