

ALBION W. TOURGEE,

MAYVILLE,

Chautauqua County, - N. Y.

Sep 22. 188

J. M. Stoddart,

J. B. Lippincott & Co.

Manager Lippincott's
Magazine.

Dear Sir: In reply to yours of the
I cannot send.

19th inst. I would state that
I cannot send you the first
story of the series I mentioned.
I can hope it for the ~~November~~ December
~~I never have anything until I begin~~
~~number and prefer to write for a day~~
~~to print when I know the day that~~
~~specified month by month;~~
~~copy has to be on hand then it is~~
~~there and never till then can I~~
~~just tinkering it.~~

It has long been a favorite
idea with me and I began it some

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time ago. Of course, I am profession-
ally inclined in this direction and
have all a lawyer's horror of
a ~~legal~~ story made up of legal
bonebones, though I think everybody
appreciates a subtle flavor of the
profession by one who knows it
well enough to assume rather than
^{attempt to}
to demonstrate.

My idea is to make each number a
story with a thread of explanatory
monologue introducing it, being
careful not to overdo the connection,
so that a reader of any number, could
"catch the thread" so far as would be
necessary to ^{an appreciation of the} ~~full~~ comprehension

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This may ^{MAYVILLE} meet your objections as to a
Chautauqua County "series, or twelve numbers". I would not call it
a "series" at all but merely "fiction in twelve
numbers". It is as unique ^{as any I do not know a better} ^{deposition, yet it is as old as the Arab}
situation though I should try to have it
"Myths" - if they were "Arabian".

provide ~~some~~ an appetite for what might
be ~~have~~ ^{been} ~~some~~ before, ~~and~~ ~~entirely~~ ~~for~~ ~~what~~
is to ~~come~~ ~~after~~. The stories will sometimes be re-
lated by ~~the~~ other parties but the ~~story~~ always monologic.

I should ~~want~~ ~~to~~ ~~add~~ ~~say~~
~~two or three~~
~~four or five~~ stories to the volume in
book-form so as to give it a grasp ^{even} on
the readers of the readers of the Maga-
zine who had perused the numbers.

I enclose a story written several
years ago which I then intended as
the first of such a series. If you take
the series for the Magazine, I will make
this ^{the supernumerary}
one of ~~three~~ ~~subordinate~~ in the book
— ^{have to} ~~excepting~~ that I shall ~~run~~
~~some~~ ~~much~~ of the first part in ~~intro~~

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introducing the series because it
gives my locus, and I ~~can~~ ^{I am not given to rehashing} ~~think I can~~ ^{think I can} ~~see you~~ ^{see you} ~~in the office of~~ ^{in the office of}
~~do not see that I could get~~ ^{do not see that I could get}
~~a better one.~~ ^{a better one.} ~~Garage and Swallow~~
~~or yard any one else where.~~ ^{could be better located and I am sure}
~~people not better describe them.~~ ^{people not better describe them.}
~~My idea has always been to~~

I send this that you may get the
touch — the idea of treatment that is
in my mind. I suppose if I should
tell you what suggested this treatment
you would laugh, as it is nothing of
this sort. Please return the copy I send
as I have no other.

Should the firm wish to publish
afterwards on a copy royalty let them
make a bid for it at the same

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time and I will furnish the corrected
and changed proofs as we go along
As to title and announcement,
I would prefer ~~merely~~
merely state ~~under the head of~~
~~fiction~~ Fiction = With Gauge and Swallow
(Twelve Numbers)
By Albion W. Tourgee.

I don't like to have my story told for me
and think with a good title and a well
known name, a resume of an intended
serial detracts rather than helps. I like to
have my readers guess what is under the
title or between the covers and I think
"Gauge and Swallow" will stand a
good deal of guessing.

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~~Leafy sighted~~

The title was copyrighted ~~in the~~ for Mrs. Tourgee some time ago, so that final arrangements will have to be made in her name and the copyright notice printed accordingly.

My idea is to make the narrator just what the example indicates — educated, weak, zealous, envious, faithful as a servant and intensely egotistic undaunted.

Yours, truly