

Illustrated American Works:

—BY—
WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT,
EDWARD EGGLESTON, D.D.,
PROF. JACOB HARRIS PATTON,
HARRIET BEECHER STOWE,
PROF. ROBERT R. RAYMOND,
JUDGE ALBION W. TOURGEE,
MAJ. GEO. F. WILLIAMS,
DR. JOHN LORD,
AND OTHER EMINENT AUTHORS.

FORDS, HOWARD, & HULBERT,
PUBLISHERS AND IMPORTERS,

SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT,

27 PARK PLACE; GOODS ENTRANCE, 24 MURRAY STREET,

Dictated.

New York, Sept. 29, 1887.

My dear Judge

I have your letter of the 24th. which seems to me generally reasonable, but on one or two points I should like to put you straight. Of course I knew your book would need some changes in the proof, just as every book does: but that it should need such over-hauling and almost resetting as the last two lots of proof have been marked by you, never entered into our calculations at all, because several of Mrs. Tourgee's letters about the book, and several of Mr. Cumming's also, refer specifically to your "revision" of it and putting it into proper shape for book form. The contract therefore, was made with the understanding that the book should be properly "revised" by you before going into the printer's hands. More over! after the contract was made, in your own letter, sending the copy and giving your reasons for not being more thorough about your revision, you say, "You are at liberty to hack as much as you choose at this; some parts of it will have to be pared a little: but on the whole it is well enough, except some poor sentences and over-worked words which show the state of my brain when it was written."

So you see why I was surprised and the folks disgruntled at the appearance of a new "reconstruction era."

However, you are certainly judicious in your suggestion that you should see the galleys; and that shall henceforward be done. As to the rest, we

should be quite content to have Mr. Cummings bear one-half of the cost of time-charges were it even an ordinarily unusual case (I) but we have taken pains to see what it is costing, and find that (based on the two lots pp 64 - 91 and 116 - 151) the corrections are costing nearly 50% extra. That is, the page costs ^(original comp. & electr.) \$.74 and the corrections between \$.34 and \$.36 - say \$.35 per page. We don't feel able to load up the little book with such disproportionate expense; it is far beyond any thing that either you or any one else ever required. And as it is merely for the purpose of allowing you to do the "hacking" on large-type proof instead of smaller-type copy, don't you think you are the party that ought to pay for it?

Suppose we stand 15% of the time-charges [i.e. 5% more than the usual rates] and you arrange with Mr. Cummings to share the balance between you? We will send you galleys, and you care restrain your iconoclastic rage a little; and so, while all will sacrifice something, it will be fair all around.

I am glad the work grows upon you as you read it in cold blood, and I am glad to say that it does also upon me. I think better of it than I expected to. Your cerebral condition at the time you dictated it I think is very evident in the crudeness of style, shown in the too great abundance of adjectives, and such little tricks as the "hunting in couples," which I have occasionally pointed out. As to your adopting or not my suggestions, I don't care a rap. I have been at the business too many years to care more about it than to indicate my notions. It is "not my funeral" and makes no difference to me whether my large wisdom and high-old taste meet the approbation of the author or not. Usually I have had pretty good luck in that line. The thing that touched me was not at all your decisions, but your mode of making them known. It resulted so often that what seemed to me to be obvious infelicities were retained by you, apparently for no other reason than because they were pointed out by me, that I began to think the book itself would fare better if I let it alone, and you worked out your own salvation; for it seemed as though you must see them yourself; and if

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you saw them without outside interference, you would correct them!

Of course I may be radically wrong in my idea of a passage, and that frequently: certainly, from some other man's point of view. When that happens, of course the suggestion made will naturally be disregarded; and you are under no necessity of explaining your decision to me: that is your right and my expectation.

I will wait until hearing from you before writing Mr. Cummings about the matter, knowing that he will rely upon your judgment; and wishing to have only what is right and fair. Our understanding of the proposition to be made to him, with your assent, is, that he should pay ^{all above 15% of} ~~the~~ the cost of making author's changes in the book, but shall not be charged any portion of the expenses of changing the size of the page, which was incurred by us, on our own discretion. The change it is true, is directly in his interest, as it will increase his royalty percentage by the difference of rate between \$1.00 & \$1.25; but as he was not consulted we will simply assume it.

I send you the printer's letter about cost of changes, that you may see in what the above calculation was based; also by some mail review pp 64-91, which please look over to see if your change are correctly made, & return. Will soon send you some galleys.

Yours cordially,
J. P. Howard