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Rooms 25 and 26.
(Dictated to Phonograph.)

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. November 17th 1890.

Hon. Albion W. Tourgee,
Care Fords, Howard & Hulbert,
#27 Park Place, New York,

My dear Judge:-

I have not seen you for a long time. You will remember having met me in Washington City in the years past and with having corresponded with me while I resided in New Orleans after your production of the "Fool's Errand".

I have been living in California now for several yaers and just at this time my attention is directed to an examination of what is known as the Australian Ballot Law.

I happen to be a member of the Legislature in California and at the coming session an attempt will be made to pass the law in some form in this State.

We are so remote from the centre of thought in the East that I find it very difficult to inform myself as to the tendencies and movements in public matters on the Atlantic Coast.

I would like very much to be informed as to the actual workings of this so-called Australian Ballot System.

I very seriously doubt the wisdom of adopting the law with some of its provisions. I find in California that the greatest evil that we have to contend with is the tendency to party disintergra-

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tion and the disposition to nominate a number of persons for every office. I fear that the provision allowing nominations by petition will have a tendency to increase this evil. Men will think that if they can secure nominations by simply writing their names to pieces of paper it will not be necessary to take part in primary elections and in the selection of suitable delegates to Conventions.

My theory is that it will tend to lead to a disintegration of political parties. After which what? Anarchy?

Can you give me any information as to the practical working of the system? Can you suggest any plan by which the advantages of the Australian Ballot Law, which seem to me to be numerous, can be secured without the evils which I fear will follow from the system as adopted in some of the States in the East?

I hope that you have kept your good health, and that you have grown no older than when I last had the pleasure of shaking your hand.

Very Sincerely Yours,

