

The Inter Ocean.

Chicago, June 20th, 1891.

Hon. A. W. Tourgee,

Maysville, N. Y.

My Dear Judge;--

If we could always understand completely the environments of our friends we would be more lenient in our judgment of their short comings, and with that little bit of philosophy in the beginning of a reply to your letter I will go to business at once. On one point you surely have the facts wrong. You probably understood the 20th of April, but I meant all the time the 20th of May, because I could not have ascertained what I wanted to ascertain before I made a positive proposition, and certain things between Mr. Kohlsaat and myself were to be fixed before I thought it proper to complete the arrangement with you, therefore, I set the 20th of May. You give the date as the 20th of April and not the 20th of May. That was a serious difference. I could have answered you on the 14th of April just as well as I could on the 20th of April, and I did think when I wrote you on the 27th of April, and I wrote at that time with an over-loaded and over-worked mind, that we undoubtedly could make a satisfactory arrangement, but I certainly did not think at that time that you would insist upon \$100 a week, because I at that time knew that that was more than I could justify to our people. I want the story and I want you, but \$75.00 a week is a big salary on a newspaper in Chicago, and to settle this matter I am perfectly willing to make this arrangement to make your Weekly payment \$75.00 a week beginning with the week ending June 27th that is next week for thirteen (13) months, when it is understood that the story

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is to be ready for publication, for which we are to pay \$3,000, \$1500 when the story begins to run, and the remainder whenever the whole is completed and placed in our hands. For the \$75.00 per week you are to furnish in addition to the "By-stander" for Saturday's paper, matter as proposed by you either for Sunday's paper, or for some other day during the week, as may be agreed upon between us. I am dictating in great haste and cannot go into details in regard to this portion. I am sorry that I do not feel justified in paying you the \$100 per week as suggested by you, but I feel the offer I make is the very best that I can induce our people to affirm. I will say further, that as a further consideration of this agreement I will furnish tickets for yourself, wife and daughter to California and return, either this summer or fall as you may choose. I do not know that we can get them in the ordinary way, but it may be understood that I will secure them if we have to pay the cash for them. That of course is an additional consideration of \$300, as I believe that is the lowest excursion rate. If I can make arrangements to pay for them in advertising it will be by paying a larger sum.

I want you to understand that the situation has been painful to me ever since I saw that you had a misunderstanding in regard to my position and as I could perceive that I was blamable at least for part of that misunderstanding. I hope that you will accept the proposition that I make and will try to put your mind in a peaceful condition toward me and toward The Inter Ocean. I expect to have Mark Twain's new story, which is said to be his greatest and best, for publication at less than one-third of what I am paying for yours. But if your story is what I hope and expect it to be we can aid in securing buyers for it in book form that will give you far greater remuneration than anything that we can promise you for the mere

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use of it in our own columns. In regard to the articles for Wednesday's paper it has been questionable with me whether it would not be better for you to write them in a different style from the "Bystander" and do so under an assumed name. There are certain subjects that you could and probably would treat in a more attractive manner that way. I give this as a suggestion only.

Very Truly Your Friend,

William Dixon