

ARNOLD & BARBOUR,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
RIDGWAY BANK BLOCK,

Dictated to S.

Ridgway, Pa., July 2, 1891.

Hon. Albion W. Tourgee,
Mayville, N. Y.

Dear Sir:--Your letter of 29th inst. is before me and I have read the same with much interest. Allow me to thank you and Mrs. Tourgee very kindly for the interest you have taken in my friend's work, and for the letters of introduction given. There can be no doubt but that these recommendations will be of great use to Mr. Rishell; but I particularly prize your own and Mrs. Tourgee's analysis of the work, and the suggestions made; and if it ever becomes possible to render more than thanks, I am sure it will be a great pleasure to do so.

I think with you that Fudgeman is not a thoroughly developed character. Rishell's idea was to show the shameless methods often pursued by Journalists; but I have never felt satisfied that he has made Fudgeman the character that he should have done. Perhaps my feeling is that he should have made him more prominent in the latter part of the fight.

The change you suggest in reference to Bowersox, is, I think, a good one, and should be followed; but I am not satisfied in my own mind that Heckerman is not a true character. I think the writer had in mind an acquaintance of his somewhat answering the description of Heckerman, who was elected to the State Legislature. At home he was a good business man but had never had much to do with politics; when he got to Harrisburg he was very green; but being an able man he soon caught on to their trickery and laid them out, then came home declaring that he would never have anything more to do with politics. His greenness was limited solely to the one particular order, and a small amount of experience was sufficient to dissipate it.

There is another thing to take into consideration, both in reference to Heckerman and Zediker; they are of German descent; of retired disposition, not much acquainted with things with which they had but little to do; yet learned their lesson quickly and are so naturally firm in their makeup ^(being Germans) that it is not necessary to declare their firmness to the extent that would have to be done if they were not known to be of that ancestry.

I think Mr. Rishell's idea in not showing up Zediker as a man of greater note, or in not having Heckerman stand as sponsor for him, was to over-color somewhat the picture showing what foolish things a political Convention would do when there was a firm character that had the advantage of them, and each faction wished to prevent the other from gaining that advantage. That is to say, they were ready to nominate

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any one, known or unknown, famous or infamous, if their selfish ends could be conserved. These are only the opinions that I have gathered from reading the work. Mr. Rishell's opinion will doubtless more nearly coincide with yours. I know he is a great admirer of your works.

As to the title and use of the word "novel", your suggestions are certainly in harmony with mine and I think will be with Mr. Rishell's; but as to killing Gov. Zediker, I would rather see him develop a little more rapidly and show him up at his inauguration as a grand good man; but whether Rishell will "kill him" or build him up, I do not know.

In reference to the General Conference business, I have no desire in the matter except to serve the best interests of the church. I have become tired of seeing men elected and have them go there simply to enjoy themselves and look on. As you say the General Conference is a legislative body, and one of no mean importance. I know that you can do better work there than I can, and I shall take pains to see that the delegates from this District are favorable to your election. I am yet a young man, and if my services are needed later on, in the General Conference they can doubtless be obtained, though not for a "valuable consideration".

I will not only look out for our District, but will also write to some pastors and laymen in different parts of the Conference, as, to Dr. Luclock of Erie, Dr. Latshaw of Greenville &c. As the time approaches for a session of our Annual Conference if you think of anything else that I can do, let me know.

Yours very truly,

N. T. Arnold