

Illustrated Subscription Works:

—BY—
WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT,
DR. JOHN LORD,
EDWIN FORBES,
ALEXANDRE BIDA,
HARRIET BEECHER STOWE,
LOUISA T. CRAIGIN,
JUDGE ALBION W. TOURGEE,
AND OTHER EMINENT AUTHORS.

FORDS, HOWARD, & HULBERT,
PUBLISHERS,

SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT,

NO. 30 LAFAYETTE PLACE (BELOW ASTOR LIBRARY),

New York, Jan. 16, 1892.

Dictated.

Hon. A. W. Tourgee,

My dear Judge:-

I was exceedingly interested in the copy of "The Planet" newspaper, containing the confession of the murder of Stephens in North Carolina. Why would it not be a good idea for me to take that down to the Tribune folks and see whether they don't consider it worth making a paragraph of with reference to "A Fool's Errand" and the accuracy of its graphic statements? I suppose you can get more copies of the paper, but I will not act upon this without your permission, both to act and to utilize the copy of "The Planet".

About the "Bystander's Notes" of the Inter Ocean, I have not seen any of these articles, although I should be very glad to; and of course it is impossible to judge at all of their bearing in reference to book publication without knowing something of what they are about and how they are put. On general principles we say "No" in these days to anything which involves the outlay of money beyond the lines of our subscription book publishing, which gives full use for all the lucre we can get hold of; therefore I should not think it likely that we should care to go into the publishing of what might be called miscellaneous literature, unless it were - as is the case in almost all of that

which we undertake - at the author's cost, upon a commission.

Your suggestion of a story in a dream is most interesting; I don't think I ever did hear of just such an experience before, excepting that I do remember having read sometime ago that Wm. D. Howells was said to have just had a very striking dream which he purposed making the central motive of a new novel. The vision was that he arose from his bed at midnight, sat for fifteen minutes by the open window, looking out into the darkness; woke up and found himself there, and then went back to bed again. How true this is I do not know, but its thrilling nature makes me think that there may be some foundation for it. Yours, I take it, would be at least as strong a situation as this, and if it also amusing, there would probably be some "go" in it. When it comes to your stories, you know that we are not slow to take them up, and shall be very glad to have a chance at any one of them that you see fit to head in our direction.

Respectfully Yours,
J. H. Maud