

# The Inter Ocean.

Chicago, Jan. 25th, 1892.

Mrs. A. W. Tourgee,

Mayville, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Tourgee:--

You owe me an apology for your note of the 22nd. I am not the reviewing editor of The Inter Ocean. I have nothing to do with that department except when I intercede with the Literary editor in favor of a friend. I am not consulted as to the books noticed and the department does not in any sense reflect my views except when I have influence enough to secure the insertion of something I write myself. The literary editor is Dr. O. W. Nixon who is President of The Inter Ocean Company and he is an autocrat in his own department. For the last ten years I have taken advantage of every possible opportunity to notice the work of Judge Tourgee editorially. If you have been even a casual reader of The Inter Ocean you know that more attention has been given in editorials to the work of the Judge than to any other novelist in this country. Even when we were interested in advertising Mr. Howell's last story I made it a point to so write the articles that each one should contain a complimentary reference to Judge Tourgee and his work. This I flattered myself was an adroit way of interesting Mr. Howell's admirers in the work of the Judge. Certainly it was meant most kindly.

# The Inter Ocean.

Chicago, Jan. 25th, 1892.

--2--

When ~~the~~ <sup>A</sup> "Son of Old Harry" was published I asked the Doctor to notice it or to allow me to write a notice. He declined peremptorily. Suspecting that his attitude on the question was in some way influenced by the friction incident to the negotiations between the Judge and Mr. Nixon I thought I might make a bad matter worse by persistence and dropped the question. I didn't refer to the matter when I saw the Judge because under the circumstances I could make no adequate explanation. I handed your letter to the Doctor when it was received and he explains that he did not notice the book because ~~in~~ <sup>W</sup> all the years that he has had charge of the literary department not a single reference of his to the Judge's books seems to have been appreciated. He says that he has noticed every book from "A Fool's Errand" down and not in any case has any quotation been made from The Inter Ocean in the Publishers' circle ~~in~~ <sup>W</sup> in fact no notice whatever so far as he knows has ever been taken of the articles in the literary department of The Inter Ocean. While he has the highest regard and the most affectionate feeling for the Judge he was irritated at the course of the publishers and decided that for once he would not notice the book at all. I explained the situation and he says now frankly that he regrets that he did not read the book and write a notice. He says further that he

# The Inter Ocean.

Chicago, .....

--3--

will as he has opportunity read "The Son of Old Harry" and will write or allow me to write a notice. This explanation is made to you in confidence so that you may understand exactly how the matter stands. It is not often that I make such an explanation.

The notice of Mr. Walter Irving Clark is amateurish in that it tries to tell the story of the book and I fancy that it is not to the liking of the publishers. The trained reviewer would have criticized or commended the story without outlining the plot; would have interested the reader without giving up what the author himself held in reserve to the last. The article and letter are returned.

Very Sincerely,

  
Managing Editor.