

March 7, 1893

To Doctor Cosmopolitan,  
Irvington, New York.

Gentlemen,

For knowing Albion W. Tourgee's address, I desire to thank him through you. This will be appropriate; I think, for you also deserve thanks for giving me the privilege of reading the very interesting  
"Story of a Thorsari."

Some years ago I read quite a number of war stories in the Century Magazine. One or more of these were written by Gen. H. S. Faunt. But this is better written and more interesting than any of those. Those were more like dry and naked skeletons, this like a completely clothed ~~and~~ skeleton clothed with a beautiful form. The criticisms of commanders meet my approbation.

Of course if you agree with a man, he is apt to think you and he are the smartest men in America. And it may be that this human weakness has something to do with my high appreciation of this story. But over and above all such weakness, this story seems to me to have very superior merit. I am sorry it is to end next month.

When I was a young fellow in 1862, I left my native neighborhood in Indiana, where none of my acquaintances of my own age were religious, and went to a neighborhood ~~where~~ where people were church members. I thought it would be easier for me to become a Christian and to remain one. John Morgan had made his first, and what was supposed to be his last, raid into Central Ky.

But alas! I had not been in the lowly rural district of "Ole Kentucky" but a week or two till I heard the cannons at Richmond, Ky. There I was in Dixie for six weeks that seemed as long as six years now. No mail. Beautiful and bright days and nights, but still a deep

Darkness seemed to have settled down on us. The only paper I got in the time was Lincoln's preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, that the rebels scattered broadast. Of course we thought it a bogus affair that they had ~~meant~~ manufactured to create sympathy for the South.

But finally came the day when Bragg's army got into a little conflict with a part of its Union escort at Perryville. I went off alone to the top of a certain hill, and lay down on the ground so that I could just faintly hear the cannon at Perryville. Of course I saw but dimly at the time what was small and what was great. But I remember that I was not wild as many with delight over the disaster of the rebel invasion of Kentucky. Though I did not then know of the immense amount of stuff the rebels carried out of Kentucky, yet my youthful heart felt that Bragg had been quite successful, and that Buell had made a great failure.

But my being in Ky. at that time doubtless has something considerable to do with making this excellent story remarkably interesting to me. How I would like to hear Dr. Tourse talk of war times!

Please send him my sincere thanks for these learned papers. I like history that gives the whys and wherefores of the movements, and that can point out the causes of the effects narrated. I feel a desire <sup>to have</sup> friend Tourse with visit the Cosmopolitan family every month.

I highly appreciate the Cosmopolitan. After the Great Divide told me about -

. John Briston Walker

I have loved the Cosmopolitan much more than before that. I should judge it to be a good and righteous thing for editors to make each other known that way. My concern about men is while they are in the conflicts of life, rather than after they are dead.

With due respect, Barton Stone Gardner.