

April 14, 1889.

Judge A. W. Gourgee:—

I am to write a review of your story, "The White Christ," for a literary society. In carefully reading the story I found several points I did not understand. I therefore consulted several friends whose opinions concerning literary matters are considered good. They claim that in this story you leave your readers much "to read between the lines"; that in several places it is impossible to know just what you intended should be read, and that the story may be fairly charged with incompleteness. I am much interested in the story so far as I understand it, and I am anxious to have a better understanding of it, both for my own satisfaction, and that I may be able to write a correct review of it. I therefore take the liberty of asking you a few questions,

and hope you will not consider it an offense, or find it too much trouble to reply.

The following are the questions: What was the meaning of the quarrel between Collins and Prime in the boot black's stand? Who were Benney and Mrs. Massey? Who was the Western man who settled in South Carolina at the close of the war, and why and how did he "disappear"? Why did Prime become so excited when told that Collins had made money in fertilizers on the Ashley? What did he mean by charging him with being "bewitched" and of "cheating his own kin"? Was Prime really a Negro?

Probably I can put all these questions into one by simply asking you to tell us well the principal events of Prime's life from the time he was discharged from the army until we meet him that Christmas morning in the "Best House," or rather, until he came to Washington with his little girl.

An immediate reply will greatly oblige one who has always been much interested ⁱⁿ your books and lectures.

Miss Anna E. Heahn,
Crete,
Nebraska.

P. S. What would you say would be a just way for "Society" to treat a person in Eva's circumstances? Would also like to know if you regard marriage between the races permissible. I ask these questions because I am greatly interested in these matters, and anxious to learn all I can about them.

A. E. H.

Please copy the
answer to this in dis-
cussible and send one
one and the writer
the other. File this
copy with this letter.
You understand now?
Don't send her the
autograph copy but
file that with this letter
Send her the ^atype written
copy signed by yourself
per E