

FORDS, HOWARD, & HULBERT,  
PUBLISHERS,  
No. 80, Lafayette Place.

Dictated.

NEW YORK, June 24', 1883

Hon. A. W. Toungee.

My Dear Judge: -

Your letter of the 20' in relation to almanacs and fluxions is duly here. Surely I have never taken you for any kind of a fool, much less that sort which begins with a "big, big D!" Your brief description of your plan would have pretty fairly answered for a description of Bryce's book; and, while I knew that of course it was neither the same nor similar, yet I did want to call your attention to the apparent parallelism, and to ask you to differentiate the two for me. So you see, that while I was not after "fluxions" I did require a calculus.

Your scheme is a big one, and a costly one, as you say, and it is evidently one of those requiring too much preliminary out-put for us to undertake. I doubt if any, outside of the three or four big houses who have their own printing and manufacturing establishments, would be ~~able~~ <sup>willing</sup> to lay the keel of so expensive a vessel. Certainly, we cannot think of it as possible for ourselves. Hulbert seems

to think that it would be a better book to publish through the trade for well-to-do buyers, and to work it up additionally through agents, than for the subscription trade entire. Out of the many classes that you suggest as those who would want it, you would probably have to drop the editors, who would expect to have it given to them for a notice, and the ministers, who would not have any money for it. However, all these points will be for the consideration of the parties who have the money and the pluck to take it up. In that case they will undoubtedly have their own ideas as to its sale.

We wish to thank you very sincerely for giving us the opportunity to think about it. We are heartily glad to hear of your good health and your busy condition and your wholeness as to the household. If you have another story ready for the market, give us a whack at it, and we shall delightedly respond, but at present the large schemes involve too much for us to handle.

Cordially Yours  
W. Howard