

Copy.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 22d rec'd. I am quite quite willing you should think anything you choose about those two verses beginning "Arched fetlocks", &c, except that it was done carelessly. I am willing to plead guilty to ignorance or inability--they may be unconscious sins--but any imputation of lack of care I resent. Those two verses were a deliberate sin against the accepted tenets of English Prosody, in regard to which I have long been an unbeliever. In fact its best results are obtainable only by violation of its rules. I do not mean this as an instance of best results, of course, but a moment's consideration will show you that there was a reason for the change and I think the intended result was produced thereby. It is not every horse that could make the run that Chillicothe bay made. For nearly four miles he had the river, as it were on his heels. How much farther he had come nobody knows. Few horses could have stood the strain on muscle and nerve for terror wears a horse out just

as it does a man. Meaning to bring him out prominently as a horse

had to give him the build and qualities which would imply staunchness and power. The first I did by reference to temper and descent; the second I had to do by actual description and on this I wanted to fix the most careless reader's attention. No horse but one of this special build could have made the run. One with straight fetlocks--the distinctive quality of the trotter--would have been "stove up", in half the distance. There are qualities, too, almost invariably derived from the dam. Having directed attention to the qualities received from the sire, I wanted to direct attention to the ~~qualities~~ staying power on the side of the dam and to put the two in sharp contrast. The way I chose to do it was to change the feet while preserving the time. I think the collocation of rugged consonants is such as to prevent the shortening of the verse-measure or time-period on this line. I think too it has put the horse in a shape where every one will recognize his qualities who knows

a horse, and every one who does not will remember what he was like.

I do not write this in self-defense, for I never defend my work. I think no one can do that. A man's work must stand for itself and all he may say or do only makes it so much the weaker. I write merely to let you know I did not stumble on that point, however great a misstep I may have made.

Yours truly,

Albion W. Tourgee.

John Eliot Brown.
Ed. Independent.

June 25th 1889