

## Illustrated American Works:

—BY—

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT,  
EDWARD EGGLESTON, D.D.,  
PROF. JACOB HARRIS PATTON,  
HARRIET BEECHER STOWE,  
PROF. ROBERT R. RAYMOND,  
JUDGE ALBION W. TOURGEE,  
MAJ. GEO. F. WILLIAMS,  
DR. JOHN LORD,

(AND OTHER EMINENT AUTHORS.)

FORDS, HOWARD, & HULBERT,  
PUBLISHERS,

SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT,

NO. 30 LAFAYETTE PLACE (BELOW ASTOR LIBRARY),

*New York,* Jan. 28th, 1890

Dictated.

Mrs. A. W. Tourgee,

Mayville, New York.

My dear Mrs. Tourgee:—

So far as I have read, the Judge's new story is admirable, exceedingly interesting, and moreover timely. I have read all that you have sent me, including the portion in the Advance, Jan. 16th, and we shall of course, as I believe I said to you before seeing the story, be ready to go ahead with it on the old half-profit basis, whenever you are ready to have us. It will be an advantage, however, for me to know about how many words the whole thing will contain, in order to select type and page. Perhaps you yourself can get at this by comparing the number of words with those in, for instance, "Figs" and "Black Ice." I should think that one or the other of those would be likely to be the style desired.

I have, as requested, made a few pencil suggestions as I read. I think they will all speak for themselves, except possibly those on Page 2, which were intended simply to make a uniformity of tense. I presume that, in order to gain a certain vivacity of effect, the Judge intends to use the present tense in describing the time when the Church of the Golden Lilies "resumes business."

Now, there is another point, which is based on a general principle although it has a special application. The Judge's descriptions are always graphic and interesting, but his conversational scenes can always give them odds and beat them. Therefore I wish to suggest the transposition of one or two sections, in order, as I believe, to lay a strong

grip on the reader's attention at first. With this in view I should begin the book with Chapter IV, Page 15; ~~and~~ give Chapters IV, V and VI as I, II and III. This introduces the reader to an interesting group instantly, while it reserves the entrance of the chief personage until a little later. <sup>(after the original I, II, & III as IV, V, & VI)</sup> Then going forward to Chapter VII, I would make a similar transposition there and for the same purpose. The Chapters concerning the church and the sermon have been pretty solid and therefore I would begin Chapter VII with the passage I have marked on Page 32, and then proceed with the rest as it falls in. Of course there will be need for some slight tinkering of the joints, but not much.

The only other general suggestion that I would make is this: The Judge's sermons are always good, but you know he is apt to give us a goodly portion of them in all his descriptions, and even conversations; so that when in addition he gives us two solid chapter-sermons, I am afraid that for the "average reader" [which, as a matter of course, is the public that he seeks to interest] there will be a little too much of that good thing. I would therefore suggest that he condense, certainly the second sermon, and I should say also, the first. This can be done by him I know, not only without sacrificing anything of the effectiveness of the thought, but really intensifying it by the use of his rare gift of condensation. If he or you will try the experiment of reading one of these aloud, I think you will see what I mean when I say that they seem to me more wordy than his compact vigor ought to be.

One point more is in reference to the title. I do not like the "Church of the Golden Lilies," because it is neither strong or suggestive. I do not quite get the force of "Nazirema," in spite of the evident essence of the word. I like the two names together, better than either one alone; but it seems to me that a man with a genius for titles, such as the Judge undoubtedly has [which, moreover, I hope he will utilize in naming the successive chapters--always an attractive and piquant feature of his books], ought to be able to find some word or phrase to express the pith of his strong story.

Personally, I wish to express my satisfaction and pleasure at again having to do with

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the putting forth of the Judge's notions in his characteristic way; and I am more than glad that he is beginning to work (what seems to me) one of the most important and characteristic veins of our life at the present day.

*I sent the copy back yesterday  
by Express.*  
*Yours truly,  
F. A. M. Howard*