Mrs Alice Wellington Rollins:

Dear Madame:

Your letter of the 17" is rec'd.

I need not tell you that ~~we~~ both Mrs. Tourgee and myself were very sorry to learn of your illness.

The volume of George & Swallow, which was sent you was not intended to be taken "professionally." You are one of the few people who have seemed to appreciate something of my real position in the litereray world, which is neither that of a follower nor founder of a "school of fiction." If I may use the abominably insolent term which an egotism ~~has~~ so sublime as to be unconscious, has recently made so familiar, but of one who not less from ~~conviction~~ instinct than from ~~a~~ conviction of its power, has used a method almost unique in fiction though usual enough in oratory and not infrequent in pictorial art. Of one phase of this Method G. & S. is, to my mind, a very complete and successful illustration. This ~~fa~~ phase is the painting of character and in fact, the telling of a story by indirection. Ordinarily, I have illustrated this ~~[illegible]~~ method by painting a ~~the~~ background of social or political forces, with great care and showed the character as shaped by causative environment, which is by all odds the greatest force in every human life. Every man or woman is made up of three quantities — ~~[illegible]~~ (1) inherited ~~qualities~~ tendencies, (2) individual influences and ~~personal influences~~ (3) general environment. Of these "inherited tendencies"

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and "general environment" make up & by far the greater part of every life. Of the "inherited ~~ge~~ tendencies," by far the greater part, again, ~~have been~~ are the result of antecedent "general environment".

In other words, the school, the church, the press, — the general popular life to which ~~every~~ one is exposed, constitutes an infinitely larger part of the shaping force of every individual character, than friends, home teachers, lovers — because it is a constant and not a variable force. The moral and intellectual life of an age is an unintermitting drawing every one this way as that according to its tendency. ~~It is a profou~~ Personal influences may flex and color but heredity and general environment shape; and heredity is mainly the result of continuous antecedent environment.

With this view, it has long been a profound artistic conviction ~~with~~ on my part, me.

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that a character is most strongly and clearly ~~painted~~ portrayed by bringing out the causative environments of individual and antecedent lives.

This, you will at once recall, has been my general method, and I believe the vividness with which my characters fix themselves in the minds of the readers & is a sufficient proof of its excellence, or at least its success. I have hardly ever found a reader who did not recall my characters with great distinctness, though he be might be muddled enough as to incident.

Another phase of this method of indirect portraiture which I have generally adopted, has been to subordinate the action of the leading characters ~~in~~ in a cast, to that of others necessarily connected with him, by which the reader sees him chiefly reflected in the words, on more particularly in the acts of others these nominally subordinate characters. I think in every one of my stories, the interest in the leading ~~the chief~~ characters is ~~almost entirely~~ inspired not by what they do

on suffer but ~~on account of~~ by what others do on suffer on account of them.

Prof. Gist, who has made a very exhaustive and loving study of my works, once said to me, "I dont quite understand your method;" the character who seems to be cast for the leading role in your books, is almost always among the most insignificant in action of ~~the char-~~ those actors depicted, but no one else seems to do anything without enhancing the interest in ~~the title roles~~ them." He instanced The Fool, in A Fool's Errand, Mollie Ainslie or even "Nimbus" in Bricks ~~or even~~ without Straw, the Lovers in Hot Plowshares and, in fact, all my casts. I hardly comprehended until then that I had so persistently ~~f~~ pursued this method.

In writing "with Gauge & Swallow." I had an idea of ~~b~~ using less the general, than the special environment, and painting a man's character by a series of episodes in the life which surrounded him. Funny enough, nobody seems to have found ~~all~~ out that this had

been done at all. While I was pridingmy=
self that few characters in fiction were more
difficult to delineate, than the vain, simple, snobbish ~~beach~~
cowardly, sychophantic, yet capable, moral, ~~and~~ inde=
fatigable and, in a sense, resolute and ~~true~~ brave,
product of New England notions and New York con=
ditions, Mr. De Fontaine, Fontaine, Fontaine — and that I had made him as clear and
common place as bad coffee to every reader
with as fine definable touches as ever ~~defined~~
outlined a character, ~~[illegible]~~ lo and behold, here came
the reviews and nobody had found out my
subtlety. I felt as a lady would who should
invite her guests, light her parlors and every
ones attention should be absorbed by the lamps
instead of the company on the rooms.

Well, I swallowed my chagrin, for there
is no use in a soldier's ~~of~~ ~~[illegible]~~ betraying pique chagrin
when he sees admiration bestowed on his equip=
ment rather than his skill. The public has been
to me as usual, ~~but~~ and if not in my way,
why then in its own way. So I said to Mrs. T—
that I would have one sent to you and see if I
really was in duty bound to have furnished a
guide=board to my purpose; for I thought you

would write me if you knew I had it sent.

Of course, your sickness has ~~no doubt~~ probably crowded you and perhaps ~~like myself~~ as in my case, the results of physical ailment may be worse than the evil itself and it may be long before you will have time ~~to~~ an inclination to look into the book. No matter: when you do write if you please and tell me if it is really bad art to drag one along through a book with a string so fine that he don't know what is leading him.

~~As a sportsman you know, I~~

With sportsmen you know the highest art is to take a fish on with tackle that will not ~~[illegible]~~ bear the strain of half his ~~[illegible]~~ weight, but I am half inclined to think that in literature the art is all the other way and that one to be a genuine literary artist ought to take gudgeons with an eight inch cable.

I dont remember whether I ~~have written~~ wrote to thank you for that exquisite sonnet to the boy — "If ever the sad time should come &c." which appeared ever so long ago. If not I ought to have done so: for I think it one of the finest combinations

of poetic skill and patriotic fervor in any language and told ~~who~~ with an exquisite delicacy as rare as sweet. You may think I have given many words to what you ~~think~~ esteem least but I have seen the tears in the eyes of hearded veterans around many a "Campfire", ~~when and [illegible] the~~ when I recited that. I am the orator of the next Army of the Cumberland meeting and I am going to speak on "What we should teach our ~~Children~~ Grandchildren", and conclude with that.

So you see I have reversed the old mythological idea. You remember that Jove more than once ~~lent~~ permitted some favorite goddess ~~the~~ to use of his ~~irresistible~~ deadly bolts, but I have even stolen my "thunder" from a "Dea certa".

I don't know when I have written so long a letter before and considering that both eyes and hands have long since struck against even imperative demands, I am not likely ever to transgress upon our long-range ~~familiarity~~ friendship again. This fact will

also, I trust excuse the type written copy which is not in this case, an alternative ~~but a Hobsonian~~ except of the Hobsonian variety.

Trusting that I may not have made the burden of either hand or brain heavier by this ~~[illegible]~~ uncalled for screed I remain

Yours very truly

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Sec. 14. The said Registrar shall be allowed the sum of Two dollars for each day's service and one cent a piece for each name actually entered by him ~~duplicate copy~~ of the triplicate copies he is required to provide. And a like sum for each day necessarily occupied in hearing and deciding challenges and when acting as ~~[illegible]~~ Chairman of the Board of Elections the associate members of which shall be allowed a like sum for one day only. The Registrar shall furnish a place for registering voters and hearing challenges and shall be allowed in addition ~~the~~ ten cents for voters ~~registered~~ who do not apply for registration on the days named and the twenty-five cents each allowed for challenges which are not sustained. The number and amount of each to be reported to the Commissioner for the District.

Sec. 15 — The Registrar ~~[illegible]~~ shall require of each applicant for registration the following oath:

"I A. B. do solemnly swear that I will on the ~~first~~ first Tuesday after the ~~first~~ Second Monday of November next ~~will~~ be twenty-one years old; that I have been a legal resident of the State during one year ~~last~~ next previous; that I have been duly constituted an elector for members of the most popular branch of the legislature of said state and ~~have~~ am not ~~been~~ now disqualified by conviction for felony, ~~[illegible]~~ and if that I shall have resided in this precinct for ~~[illegible]~~ one hundred days previous to said election. So help me God."

And if at any time ~~it shall~~ during the performance of his official duty, it shall appear to him ~~probable~~ that any person has wilfully forsworn himself in taking said oath, he shall ~~[illegible]~~ report the same to the

Commissioner of Elections of his district with the reasons of his belief and the names of any witnesses who have knowledge of the facts, and the said Commissioner shall either issue warrants for said parties or certify such names and information to the District Attorney of said District.

Sec. 16. If any one shall hinder or attempt to hinder any citizen ~~entitled to~~ having a right to vote at any election for members of the House of Representatives, from registering as a such voter ~~in any~~ by violence intimidation or any false or fraudulent representation, or by removing, mutilating, falsifying or destroying any of the triplicate records of registration in any precinct, or by hindering or delaying the transmission of the same, or by ~~[illegible]~~ intimidating or seeking to intimidate ~~the said~~ any Registrar or in any manner interfering with him in the performance of his duty by bribes or threats, the same shall be ~~[illegible]~~ deemed guilty of misdemeanor and shall be punished by imprisonment not to exceed two years, except that in case of

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blemished an ~~infamous~~ personal violence
toward any Registrar or Judge, the punish-
ment may be as much as ten years im-
prisonment at the discretion of the Court. And
it shall be the duty of the registrars, at any time, that
they receive information of such attempts
to report the same with the names of any witnesses
~~17~~ to the Commissioner of Elections of this District.

Sec. 17 - The said Registrar shall hold office during
good behavior, but may be removed at
any time by the said Commissioner of Elec-
tions for cause, provided that no Regis-
trar shall be removed because of any
political opinion he may enter-
tain or because of his affiliation with any
party but only for malfeasance, neglect or
incapacity. And that after the first election
and sixty days before every subsequent
election, it shall be the duty of said Regis-
trar to prepare a list of ~~the~~ those formerly
registered who have died or has
good and sufficient reason to believe have
since that time either died, removed from
the precinct or been convicted of felony,
and in the presence of two reputable
witnesses erase their names from the
registration books. He shall file certifi-

cate of said erasures attested by said wit-
giving the names erased, who shall state their belief that
the [illegible] causes given for erasure are true, with the
verses, with the [illegible] [illegible]
Commissioner of Election of his District
~~of postmaster~~ and shall post the same
in the place where the next registration is
appointed to be held and one other public place
in the precinct. That no name shall be erased
by said Registrar at any other time or in
any other manner except as the result of a
challenge or upon the sworn testimony of a
credible witness that he knows of his & the death
removal or legal incapacity of a voter.
Blank forms of such affidavits shall be provided
which the Registrar shall require to be executed
in duplicate and to which he shall append his
jurat, one copy to be mailed to the Com-
missioner of elections and the other held in his
Such erasure shall always be made by drawing a
possession. Any Registrar who shall erase
single red line through the name erased and placing
or permit any other person to erase any
red cross marks before the name and number care
name from the ~~Registration~~ registration
being taken subject to render the said name illegible
shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction
books of his precinct. For said erasures, ~~post~~
shall be punished by imprisonment not more than two years
copying ~~and~~ posting and transmitting copies
to the commissioner of elections, the said
Registrar shall be allowed and ten cents
for each duplicate affidavit.

Sec. 18 – Each Registrar shall procure whenever practicable either by loan or purchase a United States flag not less than ~~three~~ ~~by five~~ five feet in length by three upon the staff, which shall be publicly displayed upon the days fixed for registration, the hearing of challenges and the day of election, for which said Registrar shall be allowed one dollar for each election, and any ~~[illegible]~~ violent ~~[illegible]~~ or unauthorized removal of said flag shall be deemed an interference with said election, and the parties engaged therein shall indictable for unlawful interference and on conviction punished accordingly. The Registrar shall report whether the flag was displayed or not to the Commissioner and if not shall state why not.

~~Sec. 19~~ On or before the ~~Saturday~~ Wednesday

Sec. 19. Previous to the day of election, the Registrar shall procure from the postmaster with whom the same was been deposited the Registration book leaving in his hands the duplicates of each weeks registration, and shall add thereto the names of all persons registered ~~in the~~ since its deposit, and shall erase the names of all persons against whom challenges are sustained and shall note thereon all challenges made, so that the same shall constitute a complete and perfect record of the persons entitled to vote at said elec-

tion in his precinct. And no person shall be allowed to vote at said election who has not been previously registered and no person's right to vote shall be challenged on the day of election who is duly registered, except that anyone whose name has been erased because of challenge, shall be allowed to show the same to have been erroneous, if he shall make oath that he received no notice of said challenge before the hearing or was unable by reason of sickness ~~or sick~~ to attend the same. Such party if he shall show such challenge to have been erroneous, shall thereupon be entitled to registration.

Sec. 20. A man shall be deemed a resident of any state ~~or precinct~~ for the purposes of this act, when it has been the actual place of abode of himself and family, ~~in which he has been engaged in regular business or employment, therein~~ for one year, or when, being unmarried or being separated from his ~~wife~~ family, he has been engaged in business or employment in said state or if engaged in business or employment in another state, has ~~retained~~ had his home and domicile in said

state during the twelve months next previous to said election, or when being a nation of said state, he has, though absent for considerable periods done nothing to indicate a purpose to fix a residence elsewhere and he shall swear that he had during such absence a continuing purpose to return thereto.

Sec. 21 – A resident of any state shall be deemed a resident of any particular precinct for the purposes of this act, if a married man when himself and family shall have resided within the same during the one hundred days next previous to the election and he shall make oath that he has no present purpose of removing therefrom. If unmarried or separated from his family if he have ~~been~~ ~~continuously employed in~~ continuously lived or ~~not~~ boarded ~~in~~ said precinct during said time and shall have no present purpose of removal therefrom. The registrar may examine the applicant or other parties in regard to the fact of residence.

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