

FORDS, HOWARD, & HULBERT,  
PUBLISHERS,  
No. 30, Lafayette Place.

NEW YORK, April 11th, 1889

Mrs. A. W. Tourgee,

Dear Mrs. Tourgee; -

Your letter of the 5th came duly, as also did the articles on "The American Negro." I have not yet concluded the reading of the second one; the third one, I judge, has not yet been issued.

"Pactolus Prime" came and I was quite struck with the unique binding and much interested with the opening portion of the book; but I have been too much crowded latterly to do any reading for fun, so that I have not yet swallowed the whole.

Your notion about getting all the Judge's books together is probably a wise one for the sake of the books, and therefore would be wise for the publishers. I have not seen "Gauge and Swallow" nor "The Veteran and His Pipe," although I read different portions of each while they were appearing serially. I suppose the main difficulty in collecting the Judge's books just

now would be that we have no money to put into the plates and perhaps you haven't either. If "Button's Inn" is not selling at all, I should say \$250 would be a high price to pay for the plates; but if you could get them for \$100 and find out what the copies on hand would cost and whether they are bound or unbound, it might be worth while to start a negotiation.

However, such matters always have to move slowly to be done to advantage, for if they are pushed, the evidence of desire inevitably enhances the price that has to be paid.

I am glad to hear that the Judge is somewhat better. I do not understand why there should be any hesitation or delay in putting through such a pension as his, when those hoodlums in the Pension Office will rattle around and re-rate and back-pay and in divers ways coddle themselves and each other and millionaire senators who don't need it. However, as it is done by the "G. O. P." the Judge will doubtless think it all right. I am glad that he has been making himself prominently useful among <sup>the</sup> law-makers, although I must confess I doubt the

efficacy of any law to bring about that which must be the "long result of time." However, if they use him they ought to pay him, and I hope he will exact good wages.

How does "Pactolus" start off? You probably cannot tell much about it, though, so don't bother to answer that question unless you really happen to know.

Faithfully yours

R. Howard

Funk & Wagnalls have just sent over to him the Judge's ad. Draft. They are enterprising & shrewd, - in all directions. I hope he will make something out of them.