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Mrs. A. W. Tourgee,

~~Mayville, N. Y.~~ Phil^y

My dear Mrs. Tourgee; -

Your letter with its divers enclosures came duly, but I have not had time to write carefully about it; and I also received "Pactolus," "The Veteran," and the "Gauge and Swallow;" many thanks for all!

As to "Pactolus," I have not quite finished it, but have been exceedingly interested and very much impressed by not only the quaint old character which the Judge has depicted, but also his well put opinions. We should have been very glad to handle "Pactolus;" and if you also feel that you would have been glad to have us do so, it is a pleasant if not a profitable reflection. The Judge is so thoroughly saturated with the rights and wrongs of the negro that it seems to me in these later days he does not show the keen and just sense of

the position, needs and pressure upon the white people of the South which he showed in "A Fool's Errand." Certainly the shoe pinches them---with their millions of ignorant blacks---as it never can affect any Northern community. Whenever that particular shoe does pinch any Northern community, in the question of schools or offices or any other thing which should be shared with the blacks, we Northerners are equally prompt with the Southerners to show our prejudice,--the Kansas Republicans no less than the Southern Democrats. And if it does not here culminate in violence, it seems to be only because the conditions---the proportions in number of whites to blacks---is different among us from what it is among them. If the Judge would judiciously recognize that, and do some of his powerful preaching at the Northerners as well as at the Southerners, I believe he would find it more practically effective,---it could not well be more interesting.

Now, as to the collection of the divers books, it seems to me that the prices asked are more than the plates are worth at present, to anybody, and that it would be "good business" on your part to let the matter

lie for the present. "Button's Inn" would at ~~the~~
some time work in very nicely with the other novels.
"Gauge and Swallow" also; but ^{dipping cattle} ~~they~~ would probably not
sell that now, at any low figure. "The Veteran" I do
not think we should care much for, as it seems to be
chiefly directed to a specific and temporary political
end. It will do better in its present hands if occa-
sion for interest in it should again arise. "The
Letters to a King" I think I have, but should want to
look over them again and refresh my memory of them, to
see whether in any event they would carry ~~perma~~ permanent
interest.

The "Golden Lilies" we will take up as soon as the
Judge puts it in our hands; and, if it is to be brought
our for the Fall, the sooner we begin at it the better.
I think, however, that you should guard against too rapid
and voluminous publishing. Let "Pactolus" have its
run before the "Lilies" are brought out. I should not
be in haste for the latter before the end of the year.

As to the Tribune articles on the Negro Question, it
might be well to get those and the other articles togeth-
er to see what kind of a volume they would make; but
there is no haste about that, either, for unfortunately

that question seems likely to "be with us always."

If you and the Judge stop here on your way to
Boston, it will as always be a pleasure to us to see
both you and him; and if at that time you can run out
to see us at Montclair, the circle of pleasure will be
enlarged.

Sincerely,
Yours,
J. Howard

I will keep the letters from Robert,
Belford, &c. till you come or
then hand them to you - unless
you wish them now, & if so
I will mail them.