

The Inter Ocean.

Chicago, June 24th, 1890.

Hon. Albion W. Tourgee,
Mayville, N. Y.

My Dear Judge:--

I was wearied out with two months' work at moving and arranging for moving when your letter of May 6th was handed to me, and although I did not get away fishing for some days afterward I found no time to reply to your letter. It was not, however, because I was not interested in its contents, for I was interested in much you said about Washington and also your proposed romance. I am sometimes almost in despair about the Republican party, simply because we apparently have no bold, brave men among our leaders. We seem to have struck an era of self-seeking and time-serving. It has been carried to such extremes in the State of Illinois as to place the party supremacy in absolute peril. I have been trying to combat that spirit in The Inter Ocean and rouse the leaders to a sense of their own misery. To some extent we are succeeding, but just how far is problematical. It may be that it will take other defeats at the polls before they will cease trading off principles for place, but the rank and file I know are becoming greatly dissatisfied and but for the people whose instincts are all right I should let go.

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In regard to that romance of Columbus I have little doubt but that it will be a great success and a work entirely worthy of your highest effort, but I must say I cannot exactly see how I could undertake the responsibility in regard to it that you suggest. I think myself that the book at the time you suggest would be most profitable as a subscription work, but its publication as a serial in a newspaper ought to detract very little from its value as a subscription work. We have one very large subscription house here and if you desire I shall be very glad to put you in communication with Mr. R. S. Peale, who is the head and front of it. I am inclined to think that under the circumstances the book would have a larger circulation published in Chicago than anywhere else. It is also my judgement that it would be better for the book to be ready for delivery as soon as the Exposition opens, and perhaps it would be a better serial begun six months before the time of the opening of the Exposition than to run through the Exposition. This is simply my judgment. Of course if it is published in serial form I should be very glad to have The Inter Ocean the paper that published it, provided it did not cost too much. I find that there is a very positive limit to the value of any serial nowadays for publication in a newspaper,

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and I am sorry to say that very few of the serials that we have published in The Inter Ocean have proved of any ~~any~~^{per}ceptible value.

I ought to say further in excuse for my neglect of your letter that on my return from my fishing trip, which was on the 31st of May, I found so many things waiting for me to do and so many people asking me how this should be done and that about finishing the odds and ends of the Building that I found time to think little about correspondence. In addition to these things the Adam's Campaign was sprung suddenly on me and took a good deal of attention for two weeks, so the fact was that your letter was laid aside in my drawer and was forgotten until Mr. Busbey on the receipt of Mrs. Tourgee's letter the other day reminded me of my neglected duty. I trust next time I shall be able to be more prompt. It has grieved me much to hear of the trouble you have had this winter with your old wound as I had hoped that you had got through with any further serious annoyance from that source. I trust your residence abroad will be productive of great good to you physically as well as mentally and that you will be able to return to America a sound man with only a memory of the pains that the rebels inflicted upon you.

Very Truly Yours,

Wm. L. G. W.