

Marion, Iowa, July 9th, 1890.

My Dear Judge:

Your letter of a few days ago gave me great pleasure. I am glad the good wife insisted that you should write and that her word is so powerful at Thorheim. Really I do not see how you find time for letter-writing in addition to all the other work of your pen. I appreciate your letters all the more because I know your time for such work is limited.

I was interested in all you had to tell me about the teacher and Digger Indians. I am glad you are able

to open up a way for  
him to do something  
for these poor outcasts.  
I was pleased with the  
tone of the letter that  
Mrs. Purgie read to us  
that night. The air of  
sincerity and unselfishness  
was most manifest.

It gives me pain to  
hear of your suffering.  
I am sorry that you  
cannot walk except  
in short stages. I trust  
the rest that I hope  
you will take this  
summer will bring  
you much relief. I wonder

whether you will seek that island this summer and shut yourself off from the world.

I have read "Nazirena" with great interest from week to week. It is good and strong and wholesome in tone. It will do not a little to help solve the social problems of the day or rather awaken interest in them. I will reserve my opinion of the book as a whole till I read it in book form. I do not fully get hold of a book in weekly installments.

I do not quite agree with you that these reforms must come outside of the church. Possibly an impulse will be given from without. The church has a work in these

lines and church workers are awaking to that fact.

For years I have felt that something like the club-house you describe is needed, in the present conditions of society. As the saloon is banished, something must take its place for men who have no homes and who need social recreation. A few churches now have reading rooms,

parlors, libraries,  
bath rooms, facilities  
for games, etc., open  
six nights of the week.  
More must be done  
in that line.

I find my work drags  
in lines where I want  
to make it especially  
strong. I ~~try~~ try to interest  
my young people in  
lines of reading and  
succeed so far as many  
of the young ladies are  
concerned. The young men  
hold back and the young  
married people who ought  
to be leaders in it will  
practically have nothing  
to do with it. I try to  
have the poor feel that  
they are welcome and  
call on them much  
more than on the well-to-  
do, but I fail in many cases.

I am half inclined  
to leave the work.

Yet after living here  
for nine years it is  
not an easy matter  
to pull up stakes and  
leave especially with  
a whole house full  
of little ones.

The president of  
Iowa college, the best  
institution of the state,  
has suggested that I  
take charge of their  
preparatory department.  
I have been assured  
that I can be elected

if I consent. The position in importance is really above a regular Chair in the college. I am sure that in three years I could impress the preparatory students in the line of English more than I could the four years following in college. The early years is the time to start right. The Salary is only \$1200. That is too small for so large a family as I have. If I had a place with a few acres of land near Grinnell I might attempt it. You see I have quite an economic problem in my own household.

I have been reading more of Hugo of late and certainly he was a Master as a writer and without a

patriot.

Mrs. Gist and three  
of the bales are visiting  
in Ashtabula County,  
Ohio, now. Their plan  
was to go to Chautauque,  
but I think she has  
given that up. I have  
the other three <sup>children</sup> with me.

How gracefully you  
sat down on "Uncle  
Remus" a few weeks  
ago.

With kind regards to the  
good wife,

I remain,

Yours very truly,

W. W. Gist