My dear Mr. Bancroft:

I suppose you think I have acted very queerly in not writing for so long a time in regard to the matter we have had under consideration. To tell the truth I determined not to write again until I could write definitely as to what we could do, & in other words, until I knew what we could dispose of, socially, and approximately what we could get for the work.

A curious misunderstanding caused me to lose nearly two months. His on of the Inter Ocean worked the story. On April 14th he told me the paper was to be reorganized, that a new man taking a controlling interest was to become a permanent editor and advised a new arrangement as to the capital of the company was to be made in order to increase the capital of the paper, that though he was to remain in editorial control he did not like to make an engagement of the kind a year in advance. He said that the matter would be settled "about the 20th" which I understood, of course, to be the 20th of April, but found afterwards that he meant the 20th of May.

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As I was anxious the matter should appear in the Inter-Ocean, believing it better for the book than a magazine serial, & and was satisfied that he would eventually take it whether the arrangement they contemplated was made or not, I dropped all other things and went to cleaning up and preparing for that work. For more than a month we waited to hear from him expecting to start at once on receipt of the word for California. It was June 1st before he wrote and the month was half gone before the matter was concluded. Of course, I could not go then, both because I had taken on some other work and because the Summer Solstice is such a favorable time for such a trip, especially to one who numbers among his infirmities an uncomfortable remembrance of sunstroke. So I will celebrate the "Fourth" by writing you what I have done, what can be done and we will decide before the Autumn comes, what must be done.

Inspiring then. The Inter-Ocean will take the story "Out of the Sunset Sea" at $3.000. for the serial rights in the United States. It is to begin August 3d 1892, the anniversary of the departure from Palos, and continue until May or June 1893.

That much is settled. I don't quite know how or when the work is to be done, but it will be done — always is.

Now as to what I proposed as "Notes" "Contemporary Narration" &c. I have had a deal of trouble. No one seemed to take to the idea in any form that I could present it, until I struck on the notion of a set of articles to run serially, on their own book and to be entitled

"The Epoch of Columbus" or something of that sort, and to be devoted to a delineation of the social, political, economic, educational religious and general conditions of the worlds life at that time — I mean during Columbus' life.

Every body jumped at that. You see, my original conclusion was correct: nobody knows anything about the actual social, political and economic conditions of that time unless it be a few specialists. There is a position and self-evident demand for a

work that will plainly picture the common every day conditions of that time and make its political geography and organization comprehensible and familiar. We can plan, therefore, twenty-five or thirty articles of ~~2000 to~~ 3000 words each, beginning say Jan. 1 - 1892 and coming weekly until August, when the story will begin.

The articles should be actually continuous but apparently independent - that is they should be related monographs.

A New York Syndicate will take the articles and place them both in this country and England. Precisely which terms ~~they will go for~~ can be named as it is impossible to decide just until we are prepared to furnish a synopsis and give the first ~~chapter~~ instalment. I think we can get $3.000. for 30 articles.

Now, my proposition is that we write two books instead of one. We have got to plow this ground anyhow; why not

raise a crop which we are at it?

So far as I am able to gather, too, the field is a fruitful one. I find it hard to learn anything about the common life of that time. Of course, the data exists somewhere but it has not yet been assorted and compiled.

My idea is that we should regard the Columbian Epoch as an evolution with an accident and point the life out of which it sprung in detail — till who lived during his time and what they were like.

1— Nations — It is amazing how hard it is to learn the actual civil divisions of Europe during his life and their relations to each other, frontiers each, population, &c.

2— The Government and specific conditions of each nationality.

3— Military Organizations
Armies, armaments, defenses
&c.

4— Navies and Naval Equipments —
Ships, armaments, Navigators instruments &c.

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5— Municipal Government—

I am greatly struck with the seeds of liberty in Spanish Municipal Administration. It can be well enchanted with ours as it seems true.

6— Home life— the houses, &c,

7— Costumes and Commerce.

8— Agriculture — including Canons.

9— What people ate and drank.

10— Learning, books, beginnings in

I view this, of course, only as a general outline. It ought to be able to group by centuries, the men of each who lived during his time and make it so that a reader could close his eyes when he had read the articles and see the age in which Columbus lived in its essentials. Of course, one will take care

in the story, that he learns the spirit.

Now, if this arrangement plan meets your approval, suppose we outline the plan with some care and see if the following schedule can be worked and if not which modifications are feasible and necessary, keeping in mind these conditions:

(1) — The series to begin Jan. 1st 1892

(2) — The story (say 3) "

(3) — The first Chapter Instalment of the series with Synopsis of the whole, should be ready and illustrations made by ~~Dec. 1st~~ Oct. 15 — 11 weeks.

(If this is not feasible we must, better delay the first number until February or perhaps April 1892)

Before, I come to California in September and remain ~~two~~ a couple of months and then go to Europe for the vision which is now full of the environment. How would all this accord with your plans and pleasure?

I do not care to have the story completed when publication begins but I must have my feeling before it is begun.

Of course you will have to
do the bulk of the other work.
It is true, it covers ground I
have to go over in a rush of
fashion to get at the story, in-
deed it is exactly the ground the
preparation and the "Notes" first
portrayed would have to cover.
But you would have to do
it — I could at best only
act as "consulting counsel,"
as to form and method
of the telling.

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I should worry on to have the main credit too. I think this work should be published as by —

H. H. Bancroft
and
A. W. Tourgee

the story by

A. W. Tourgee
and
H. H. Bancroft

This, I take it will give each his proper due and make each responsible for his own sins to a reasonable extent. At least it will look better than any other arrangement I can think of.

I do not see that I could help any much on the first except in a sort of social

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ignation"; if I may coin a word to mean adaptation to social use, which has become an art and an art which I have carefully studied. Of course, it is not a very so called art, is never referred to by critics or any standard authority on style, but it means adaptation to present tastes and conditions.

~~It is perhaps chiefly trade but is~~
~~any case a matter of~~

It may perhaps be termed almost meretricious as a style, but there is no doubt that the demand for it is ~~perfect~~ imperative and I am not at

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all over that it is not healthful.

I am going to see what can be done about the illustrations and by the time I can get away hope to be fully posted in regard to the whole matter. ~~If that~~

If this arrangement does not suit with your convenience or does not meet your views please let me know and suggest what will. If you approve, I think on it would be well for us to exchange some drafts of the articles — on the subjects

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of them rather, before September.

Now as the pressing matter is to get the first number so that it can be sent out with a prospectus in time to have contents made for its first appearance in January.

Yours truly

Mrs. Lowyte is entirely recovered and the daughter has gone for a month or so to the sea shore where she is writing work with pleasure, I hope not neglecting the pleasure. Yours truly

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which produced these results is applied to their administration. This the result of brains must be controlled by brains. Now, who applied the brains? Evidently the men who have the money. Brain=power under our eyes=tem is measured with absolute unfail=ing accuracy by the figures in Bradstreet. A man may have knowledge, scientific attainment, technical skill but unless he has money [illegible] you may be sure he lacks grip, power, brain. The measure men by the value of their figures and it is the only true measure of power. Attainment is nothing

Each business or large scale — the most would for the last money. That is all there is of it. Sentiment has no place in it. Our people are pretty much a unit in that view — and wealth & capital control our government, as it ought. We have twenty-three senators & three or four hundred millionaire dollars each and several worth from ten to fifty millions. A poor man comes and then slips into Congress from these states but the chances are if he does, that he is the mere [illegible] attorney of some great interest whom he is to protect and save from public encroachment. This accounts for our

prosperity. We make politics a business
and not a sentiment.

"This was well enough until the
new craze came up. Now the people are
going wild over the idea of robbing the
rich — directly or indirectly. The men
temporized with the thing for years and it has
grown worse and worse. It is getting
so that the men who do not pay
a cent of taxes want to run the
government; every day or two our rul-
ers shall charge for passengers and
freight; fix the price of coal and
tell farmers the rate of wages and
the hours of work. In short, we

every man's business for him and to him + him for any shortage that may result. The time has come when we must look it or be ruined. We are all in the same boat you see; every manufacturer, transporter, and telegrapher — every holder of bonds or employer of labor. We have got to fight ~~as to what~~ and if we fought ~~and~~ ~~which~~ ~~to be~~ either which or both and let Providence and anarchy ~~be~~ ~~wiped~~ out. To me there ~~seemed~~ a premium "blind pool".

"A what?"

A "blind pool," ~~that~~ is a growth of men — I don't care how many — have agreed to blind by what & may determine after as best to be.

There are not very many of them that get such a pound of freight; not to single passengers, ~~not a peach~~ can get from ~~Chicago to the Atlantic~~, ~~we in the Mississippi~~ the West to the East on ~~them~~ the East to the West, without their leave.

"But the Mississippi," I returned

Ah yes — the Mississippi! The father of waters — and hobby of fools! It will do for you Southern sentimentalists to prate about and for Northern sentimentalists — to squander money on. But let me tell you something. You may put a thousand dollars

on every linear foot of its length and
then there is such force enough in any
government worth the name to drive
down its current. Money is the life
is money now and nobody can run
a line that means months or weeks
against me that means hours. I
would not take the Mississippi as
a gift perfectly equipped to enslave
and rice lands in the delta
reclaimed overflowed or wet
for big levees from the government
every year. That's all the crooked old
ditch is good for. It's the levee

~~in this day as a Democratic candidate~~
~~without~~ as a happy result, as
would be
Noah's ark for ocean travel."

Now the "fool" will do just what I say.
They ask no questions: don't want to know
what I am doing or how I do it. They
merely do what I require. We haven't
any politics or sentiment. We don't care
who rules or pretends to rule. We are sell-
ing any parties that chose should have
the administration. In one state we are
Democrats and in another Republicans. All
we want is to control the men who are
elected, so as to have sure that the solid
men in this country — those who have
made what it is — shall govern it.

This we are going to say hon-