

Madison, Wis, Feb. 2, 1892.

Hon. A. W. Tourgee,  
Wayville, N. Y. —

Dear Sir: Through the carelessness of our postal people your prompt response did not reach me until last night, although I had several times called for mail and matter had many times been brought to me at the hotel by the regular carriers. I only prevented its return as "uncalled for" by seeing it "advertised." I regret it very much, for many reasons, but having no apparent redress must bear it. I also regret the "negative" your response transmits, but am not yet satisfied or discouraged, and presume to renew the correspondence because of an evident misapprehension on your part and mistake on mine. Personally we are strangers, but that has little weight generally in matters of business. Through your writings, assuming candor in you, I am well enough acquainted with you <sup>to</sup> make propositions; you are the arbiter, and should they be thought worthy of consideration, an acquaintance with myself and antici-

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dents is easily obtainable. As a groundwork of any investigation I will say that I am a single man of 50 years, am a practical printer and have had many years experience as printer, publisher and editor of country papers in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Three years ago I returned from a 25 years' residence on the Pacific coast, visiting, for a short time only, my boyhood home in Ottumwa, Iowa, and am now working on the "State work" of the present session of the Wisconsin legislature. I am, and always have been, a Republican in politics, though I never sought office at any party's hands, and have no such designs now. For several years I have regretted the course of my party in many things, but not possessing the single-handed power to make my protests of much avail I have accomplished but little. With a view to effective effort I conceived the scheme of doing something of the nature suggested to you in my former letter. I outlined the scheme on a basis I thought no more than commensurate with my estimate of the ability and ambition of the party addressed. Evidently I simply

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aimed my gun too high, but as you express an intention to shoot anyhow, though only in a "small" way, should you contemplate establishing your battery in my field I am ready to meet you on "smaller" terms, and will make another suggestion, as you seem to fear another "pinch," - a result I had no fear of.

If you have not already so far perfected your plans as to preclude interference by me, perhaps you may be willing to change them. You may be a printer as well as writer. If so, you can at once determine the correctness or error of my calculations. A weekly newspaper outfit can be procured (for an 8 or 9 column folio) in and set up in Chicago for not more than \$3000. That sum can be made to procure the material and bear the expense of running it for at least three months. If it shall be known publicly that at a given time you contemplate issuing a sheet in that city I will undertake to raise that sum and procure the material inside of 90 days from date and you need not advance one dollar. Your "prospectus" as editor, specifying the character of the sheet, &c. is all that I ask and I will conduct the

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-mechanical and business part of the undertaking - the latter only in consultation with you - and we need have no fear of a "pinch" that will hurt us.

I shall be in Chicago about the middle of March, and thereafter during the Exposition, and as I presume, in common with others, you will also be there, we can talk over the situation and complete arrangements in a very short time. Or, if you should not come that soon, and desire to enter into the scheme at once, it can be done by letter.

Hoping you may feel me, a stranger, as not impertinent in this matter, and hoping to hear from you at your convenience,  
I remain

Very truly yours,

Ed. F. Lewis  
of Fess House  
Madison,  
Wis.