

Illustrated Subscription Works:

—BY—  
WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT,  
DR. JOHN LORD,  
EDWIN FORBES,  
ALEXANDRE BIDA,  
HARRIET BEECHER STOWE,  
LOUISA T. CRAIGIN,  
JUDGE ALBION W. TOURGEE,  
PROF. J. HARRIS PATTON,  
AND OTHER EMINENT AUTHORS.

FORDS, HOWARD, & HULBERT,  
PUBLISHERS,

SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT!!!

No. 47 EAST 10TH STREET (5 DOORS WEST OF BROADWAY),

New York, March 9th, 1893.

Dictated.

Mrs. A. W. Tourgee,

Mayville, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Tourgee:-

I stayed at home Tuesday and devoted the day, chiefly, to the reading of "Out of the Sunset Sea" down to Chapter XXVI inclusive. It is certainly a story warm and glowing with the atmosphere of romance; a story well told, with distinct and clearly drawn characters, each one of whom secures his own interest in the mind of the reader. I like it much; and Mr. Hulbert, who read some portions of it in the West, is also pleased with it and thinks it is one of the best things the Judge has thus far done.

The Judge has chosen a difficult period, of course, for his portrayal, and it is evident that the limitations of phraseology gird him a little here and there, and especially in the use of the second person singular, in direct address. That seems to vary in spots. I might think it - and it probably is in many places - intentional; as marking the distinction between the "thou" of address to familiars and inferiors and the "you" to comparative strangers or superiors: but the variation occurs sometimes in the same sentence, so that it is evi-

dently an oversight.

There are also occasional lapses into modern phraseology and even slang, which is apt enough, but anachronistic. In reading, I marked a number of these places as I went along, and will mail you the lot as far as I have proceeded, for the Judge to run his eye over. He may find them the results of haste, or he may find reason for them; of course he will himself note his preference.

There is another matter which I would like to <sup>mention</sup> ~~suggest~~. It is the same thing which I have noticed in others of the Judge's stories, in which I suggested some transference of material, which he approved. It is that, in the very first chapter, instead of beginning with the dramatic interest of dialogue and individuality, he invites his reader to begin upon page after page after-page of solid description and discussion. That whole first chapter is of admirable interest, but it certainly seems to me that he would lay hold upon his reader quicker if he began with his hero and some exchange of the interesting <sup>matter</sup> ~~about~~ ~~these~~ young Lake ~~characters~~, bringing in the long descriptions later in the chapter.

I feel also that the Judge has introduced, perhaps in Chapter III and certainly in Chapter IV, too much descriptive, biographical, genealogical, historical and other lore, by way of accounting for the origin and early training of his young hero. A good deal of it is interesting, and it undoubtedly gave the Judge some research to get together historical basis for his biographical fiction, yet it seems to me heavy for the ordinary reader. Just as I urgently entreated him

## Illustrated Subscription Works:

—BY—  
WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT,  
DR. JOHN LORD,  
EDWIN FORBES,  
ALEXANDRE BIDA,  
HARRIET BEECHER STOWE,  
LOUISA T. CRAIGIN,  
JUDGE ALBION W. TOURGEE,  
PROF. J. HARRIS PATTON,  
AND OTHER EMINENT AUTHORS.

FORDS, HOWARD, & HULBERT,  
PUBLISHERS,

~~SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT,~~

No. 47 EAST 10TH STREET (5 DOORS WEST OF BROADWAY),

*New York,* March 9th, 1863

Dictated.

(2)

to relieve the pages of "Eastman" of a good deal of their sermonizing; and just as that same sermonizing, admirable though it be, has been the chief weight around the neck of that book, as a story, - so, too, I feel in this case. The material is admirably good; there is no doubt of that: but it is unnecessary to the development of his story, and it wastes the interest of his readers, who would be quite as intelligently interested in the boy and his immediate relatives without delving into the collateral branches and ramifications and marriages and positions of the foregoing family at large.

There is another question that I would like to put to the Judge as one of a possible anachronism, and that is whether it is not better to sacrifice his big-hearted and witty Irishman among the ship's company with Lake, rather than to have him among a Spanish-speaking crew, expressing his humorous and generous sentiments in a dialect compounded of medieval English and modern Irish brogue? For my part I doubt whether the Irishmen of his day spoke much English any how, brogue or no brogue; and even if they did, it would hardly be practicable to have a true, artistic conception of such phraseology in a sailor's fore-castle talk, conducted in the Spanish language. It

seems not only an anachronism but an impossibility.

Of course, in spite of all these "spots," the sun of romance shines brilliantly out of the "Sunset Sea" and I suggest them only because they seem to me unnecessary blemishes.

Let me ask about the illustrations, which are remarkably spirited and well drawn. It seems to me that some of them might perhaps be utilized, if the original drawings could be had and photo-engraved down to a smaller scale. As they are, they are admirable for newspaper work, but would be altogether too coarse <sup>in line</sup> for any ordinary 12mo book work.

What is the condition of the originals; whose property are they, and have you reserved the use of them for your book purposes? I see the copyright is in the name of Miss Tourgée, who is also the artist; therefore it seems quite probable that, with such experienced advisers as yourself and the Judge, she has reserved her right to utilize them if she puts her story in book form.

We shall look for the remainder of the story as it comes out, with great interest, and after hearing from you about some of these matters, and possibly with some suggestions as to the conditions on which you would like to have the book published, we will write further about it.

Faithfully yours,

