

The Inter Ocean.

Chicago, March 13, 1893.

Mrs. A. W. Tourgee,
Mayville, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Tourgee:--

Your letter referring to the sequel to "Out of the Sunset Sea" was turned over to Mr. Nixon. He said he had already written the Judge in regard to the matter asking what would be the probable cost of the new story. I do not know what the feeling is toward another story on the same line. I am afraid it is not favorable. This I write to you on my own motion, because the decision will not rest with me at all. I hope "Out of the Sunset Sea" will be rounded off in good shape, and that the story will be finished off to the satisfaction of story readers. If it is not there will be great dissatisfaction. Most of the people about the office have their impressions of the story from myself, and of course these impressions have been favorable, but if there is any complaint on the part of readers as to the story now running, you can see that it will give Mr. Nixon or Mr. Kohlsaet reason for not considering the story that is to come. When they bought the story they of course thought that it would cover the field of Columbus' discoveries. As I understand you, there was no thought then of making two stories, and I doubt the propriety of dividing the subject into two independent stories. I think it would be better to make one long story rather than two of moderate length.

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I suppose, however, you were thinking of the publication in book form.

What I want presented clearly to Mr. Nixon and Mr. Kohlsaas is the fact that the narrative could not be handled as at first contemplated and that the publishing of the sequel is in the interest of those who have read the story. I think it would be well for you to write Mr. Nixon a personal letter explaining as to the sequel, giving clearly the reasons that led to the change of program. I will of course do all I can to have all the parties concerned understand the situation.

If this new story is to be complete in itself, why wouldn't be a good idea to have it handled by the syndicate. The Inter Ocean has now created an interest in the subject, and it might be that this new story started about the time the World's Fair opens would be received favorably by the papers of Mr. McClure's Syndicate.

All this, you understand, is my own idea. I have not consulted with Mr. Nixon at all. This note is personal rather than professional. When the time comes I will talk the whole matter over with Mr. Nixon and urge him to be as prompt in arriving at a decision as possible.

Yours sincerely,

W. A. Busbey