

Choice Reading.

FORDS, HOWARD, & HULBERT,

Beacon Lights of History,  
The Bryant Collection,  
Pictures in Palestine,  
Army Sketch-Book,  
400 Years of American History.

No. 47 East 10th Street,

New York.

May 15/93

Dear Mr. Fords

Your dated 11<sup>th</sup> is  
at hand this mornig. It would  
have been pleasant to get out  
the "Sweet Sea", but if my  
physical ailments should have  
resulted in putting you into  
the hands of people who can  
do better for you, so much  
the better for you! I did not  
know there was any haste  
about the issue. But it's  
all right, & we wish you  
the best of luck with it.

I sent another batch  
of newspaper chapters to you  
yesterday with an occasional  
mark. One or two things struck  
me. There has always been

in the accounts of the voyage  
mention made of a mutiny  
on board, or mutinous feeling  
& rebellion - but some of Co-  
lumbus with his steadfast faith  
& personal force of mind. It does  
not appear in the Judge's Story.

There is hardly clear enough  
detail about seeing & reaching land,  
and landing. After the first men-  
tion & discussion of credit, it  
is all taken for granted.

I think the Judge has been  
too lucky in finding in Tray Mentoring  
- the good re-mnant of the ship's  
Company - a chance to preach the  
Negro question under guise of the  
Indian question & Colored skin.

The allusion would be admirable,  
& keenly effective; but pages of  
preaching is too much. If the  
Judge would only let the Story  
preach the sermon! But he will  
insist on elaborate argument in-  
stead of flashing it in his reader  
with an epigram or an illustra-  
tion - as he might so well do.

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The good le padre's piece gets rather tedious & out of place in a morning tale of adventure.

However, there's no use saying anything, I suppose. He won't share anything he has written. He is not content to give his readers a finished jewel & trust to their intelligence for appreciating the making of it; but he must take them with him through the mine, the mill, the furnace, the workshop, the hammering & filing & rubbing & all the long process of shaping & finishing. It's not only needless, but it prevents them really taking the

Sense & getting the good of  
the thing he wants them to  
appreciate.

If he could only have a  
parish somewhere & preach  
twice Sundays & once Wednesday  
night, that would relieve his  
internal moral commotion;  
then he could write stories  
without sermons, except as  
suggested by his graphs  
pen-pictures — & thus be  
much the more efficacious.

People <sup>at large</sup> will not read  
a book burdened with  
so much wisdom = in = the = making.  
And if they don't read it,  
— cui bono?

Well, good luck for  
the Columbian Voyage!  
If we can do anything to  
help it on, we gladly will.  
Yours truly, J. H. Brown