

Greenville, Illinois, April 12th, 1893.

Editor Inter Ocean:

In the Saturday Inter Ocean,
I find this very modest observation
in "A Bystander's Notes":

"The habit of a lifetime has made
the Bystander's pencil almost infallible
in its indication of verbal inaccuracy,
which is, after all, the very highest test of
literary merit."

And it seems to me that our unosten-
tations friend must have lost his "infalli-
ble pencil" and been writing his criti-
que - I believe that is what great scholars
call it - with a shovel. For can you or
any one else tell me what is the rhetori-
cal sense of the above sentence?

It may be strained into meaning that
Bystander's pencil is the highest test



Greenville, Illinois, 1893.

of literary merit, which under the cir-
cumstance, is nonsense; or, construed
~~with~~ moderate regard for syntax, that
verbal inaccuracy is the highest test
of literary merit, which would be con-
sensus also.

Studying the matter carefully, I have
finally concluded, that Bylander, not-
withstanding his professions, is not some-
at times inclined to be in closer rela-
tionship with syntax than he is person-
ally with his special work, the Negro

Yours truly,

Wallie Harrod.