

Dear Miss Sturge: I received the  
basket sent by Miss Shepherd a  
week ago and a few days later  
your charming sketch of your  
noble work.

I made the  
matter the subject of a copy  
the "Bystander's Notes" in the Chi-  
cago Inter Ocean which goes  
in its various reprintings, into  
<sup>the hands</sup>  
500,000 American homes.

I do not know what ef-  
fect it will have but some  
people will think about it and  
perhaps — well, it will do us  
harm at least. This was writ-  
ten before your sketch came  
as I wanted to take advantage

of the awakening of public thought  
consequent upon the second  
reading of the Home Rule  
Bill in Parliament.

Now, that you have so fully  
entertained my sympathies I  
want to make a further  
demand on you. Do not  
think me exacting. What I de-  
sire is to give your work the  
prominence it deserves and do  
it in the way it can best  
be done. I told Miss Lupton, half  
a year ago, that if she would  
furnish me the materials I  
would prepare an illustrated

article in one of our great  
Magazines which would turn  
many thousand eyes, with  
favor upon your work.

I could hardly tell her what  
I wanted for her own knowl-  
edge seemed to be of the vaguest,  
and it was not strange  
to take a good while to get  
it around. Now, that I know  
something, however, I am in  
good position to demand more.

What first I want, is a pho-  
tograph of yourself: then some  
photographs of scenery, cabins, &c,  
in the vicinity, whatever may

be made for ~~the~~ illustrations.  
My daughter who is an illustrator  
will make sketches from your  
pictures ~~in~~ at the World's  
Fair and those sent to me.

Let me know, if you please,  
something more definite than  
I now know of your father,  
and as much as you will  
of your first inclination to  
this work — what started it —  
what you did. We are all  
curious enquirers and like better  
to hear of persons than of things.  
And why should not our interest  
be held by going to the goal

rather than of the bank.

It would be well if  
I had also more exact  
statement of facts. When he =  
you, how many troyths,  
osier = beds fresh planted.  
how many baskets  
made - how what  
revenue obtained -  
anything that may  
serve to defray the in-  
terest:

It may seem a good  
deal of trouble but I too am  
willing to give a little of  
myself, if you will furnish  
me the setting for my  
work - I think it would  
be of great value to your  
industry in providing  
means for its extension  
and a market for its  
wares - I will write to the  
Customs and see when  
there may be a chance to get it  
to us. What is done should be

done at once, however, as the  
sooner the ~~matter~~ appears the  
better.

—  
With highest regard  
Yours truly

Wm. D. Boyce

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013

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