

# The Inter Ocean.

Chicago, July 12, 1893.

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

My dear Judge:

I received your letter of the 6th instant and read it carefully. I was a little surprised and by no means pleased with its general tone. Of course you have a perfect right to sell your work wherever you think it will be of most personal benefit to you. You have been a contributor to The Inter Ocean for a number of years. We have made as much as we could of you as a member of The Inter Ocean family. We have given you the greatest and most congenial constituency that you could have found anywhere in the United States. I speak confidently in this way, because I believe that I know what I say is true. You have been allowed the broadest kind of latitude, in fact, have had the least possible restraint. A few times I thought that you overstepped the bounds, but generally our relations have been cordial because I have always fully sympathized with your objects, though I sometimes did not with your methods. During all these years I have continued you as a contributor, much of the time contrary to the wishes of some of those interested with me, not because

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they did not like your articles, but because the price we paid you was many times greater than that which we paid anybody else. I have retained you because I thought it was for the benefit of The Inter Ocean. But reading over your letter it strikes me that if the books were balanced you would find that The Inter Ocean has certainly been of as much benefit to you as you to The Inter Ocean. Your benefits as I read them have been much more than the mere dollars and cents which we paid you.

As to the reduction in price, it is, in reality, no reduction in price. We were paying you \$50 a week when we began negotiations for the Columbus story. As you felt the need of more money to enable you to make what you thought a necessary trip to California, it was agreed that you should furnish certain other articles to be called, the "John Workman Articles", and that we were to pay you \$75 a week up to the            day of            , 1892. These \$75 a week were not expected to continue beyond that date. The "John Workman Articles" continued only a few weeks. I was perfectly willing to have them stopped on account of the fact that we needed the space for news, and the further fact that they did not seem to take with our readers as expected. When the time came for the reduction of the weekly payment from \$75 to \$50 I forgot all about it, as I was greatly absorbed in my own work, and

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was not signing the checks at that time. I was reminded of the matter two or three months ago, and wrote in regard to the same. I received an answer from Mrs. Tourgee but did not respond to it, because she said it was unnecessary unless I could agree to her request. I thought that at that time I gave Mr. Irvin an order to make the reduction. Being in the counting room the other day, however, I was surprised to find that he was still remitting \$75 a week, but he assured me I had never given him any other order. I then told him to reduce it from that date on. I go into the particulars about this, because I do not want you to think that I would make an arbitrary reduction of that kind without first notifying you. . You have, I think, had the \$75 a week 8 or 10 months longer than was stipulated in our agreement. Our agreement was made by correspondence, and if you have not kept a copy of your letter making the terms, I will have a copy sent you, to satisfy you that I was simply moving along the line of a definite agreement.

Talking about struggles, I have not asked for sympathy from you or anybody else to whom I have paid money for work on The Inter Ocean. But I know of no struggles so hard and severe as come to those who undertake to build up a great metropolitan newspaper on the basis of sound principle and honest work.

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Such a struggle makes tremendous drafts both on the brain and on the treasury. The Inter Ocean is no exception to the rule. It is here, however, but only got here by tremendous drafts on my vitality for which no money could pay me. I am, nevertheless, well satisfied with the <sup>Result</sup> ~~result~~, let the future be what it may.

Referring again to what you said about seeking new fields of employment, I certainly do not question your right to sell your work where it will be of the greatest service to you, and much as I should regret to have you part company with The Inter Ocean, I feel that I cannot say nay to that part of your letter.

Very Truly Yours,

*Wm. D. Taylor*