

Mayville-on-Chautauqua, N. Y.  
July 15th 1893.

My dear Nixon:

I have yours of the 12th inst, and am at a loss to know what there could have been which was displeasing to you in my letter of the 10th. I did not mean it in that way, had no motive to make it so, and did not suppose I had done so.

You are quite correct in what you say about the pleasant "constituency." My connection with THE INTER OCEAN has been a relation of exceeding pleasantness, and if you granted me great freedom I have tried not to abuse your forbearance. So too, if you gave me a "constituency" did I not bring you a pleasant and profitable one, and have I not kept on increasing it? I do not suppose you would have continued the connection had it not been as you say, that it was "because I (you) thought it was for the benefit of THE INTER OCEAN."

Of course the same motive induced me to remain with you. I believed it was for my advantage, and I hoped it would be still more for my advantage. I do not understand you, however, when you say, "Your benefits, as I read them, have been much more than dollars and cents." I do not know of any ulterior advantage that has come to me unless it be an enhancement of the value of my services, and this is no benefit at all unless I receive more for them.

I have never been inclined to question that if the books were balanced out (I) would find that THE INTER OCEAN had been as much benefit to you (me) as you (I) have been to THE INTER OCEAN." Those are books which cannot well be balanced as no one can tell the motive affecting those who comprise the circle of your readers. I believe, however, that in direct and traceable results you have received good value for every dollar.

2

You are in error in stating that you were paying me \$50. ~~per~~ per week, previous to the \$75. arrangement. You did pay me \$50. per week for the first "SIVA LETTERS" but you received 50 per cent of this back in royalty from the book. After that whenever I wrote for you at all, you paid me \$50. every other week for a 3 column article; after that when we began the Bystander, you paid me \$25. per week until February 1891, then for five months, \$30.

So too, you mistake in regard to "JOHN WORKMAN." It was to continue for a year, and there are now on the table before me 44 numbers cut from the columns of THE INTER OCEAN. You would hardly call 44 weeks "a few", would you?

You know that in consideration of the \$75. per week I let you have, for \$5,000. what I had been offered \$5,000. for, looking of course, to ultimate advantage from the connection with THE INTER OCEAN.

I believe the connection has been mutually advantageous: that we stand on even terms. You have stood by me and I have stood by you. When I was offered a much higher salary for a term of years I declined it because THE INTER OCEAN was in deep water, and was, as you say, taxing your vitality prodigiously. To have left it and taken my name where it was desired, would, I thought have been to take an ungenerous and unfair advantage of one ~~xxxxxx~~ towards whom I sustained a somewhat peculiar relation as a writer. Everybody who knew of it, said I was a fool, and I probably was; but I would rather be that sort of a fool than the other sort of a man. After all it would be a comfortable thing to know just now that for nearly seven years to come I would be drawing a stipend larger than you have ever paid me for about the same work, the serial use of an fiction

for that journal instead of the condition of uncertainty in which I now find myself placed.

In like manner, I had refused all offers to divide my work, not thinking it to your advantage or mine that I should do so. My letter of the 5th was simply to put you in possession of my view of the necessity that I should get more for my work if possible, and if you did not estimate it higher, I must be on the look-out for other opportunities. What there could be about this to displease you I am at a loss to see. I should not have thought that I was treating you fairly had I entertained any proposition from another for work under my own name without doing so.

It is needless to say that I greatly regret both your annoyance and the occasion which made it unavoidable.

Sincerely yours,