

Saturday p.m.

July 15th 1893.

My dear Mr Nixon:

Thanks for your letter which was received with the one for the Judge last night. I wish to add a little detail to the answer he sent to your letter this morning about the mistake you made in connection with the amount you had previously paid him for the Bystander. I will write it on the typewriter that its perusal may be as little irksome as possible.

I gave the Judge the data for his statement from my daily memorandum book, which always lies on the dressing-table in my bedroom and is written up every night the last thing before I go to bed. I do not think there can be any mistake about it, and I am quite sure you will find the books of THE INTER OCEAN agreeing with it.

Besides the "SIVA LETTERS" of which he speaks, he was paid \$50. per week for "THE VETERAN AND HIS PIPE" under the same arrangement as to the division of the royalty for book publication. Of this I do not think we have ever had any accounting. I suppose the sales have been small, --but I myself have bought and paid for more than 100 copies, with which I have furnished our local dealers. All the rest of the writing he has done for you was by arrangement of 3 or more columns every other week, instead of a column and a half every week, for which you paid him \$50., per week that ~~is~~ averaging \$25. a week. In April 88 he began the Bystander under an arrangement of a column and a half or 2 columns a week for which he was paid \$25., a week until February '91, when you made a raise of \$5., a week making \$30., which he was receiving when the \$75., arrangement went into effect. So you see the over-payment you think has been made

been paying him previously,--so is it an over-payment?

2

I do not see that anything has occurred that should disturb the harmony of our relations. The thing to do, is to understand each other, and to accomplish this I fear I must bother you with a little more personal matters. To go back to my previous letter to you when you wrote the Judge that you would reduce the check; not hearing any thing to that effect after I wrote and sent you the statement I had been obliged to make public to meet some unjust criticism, which I thought would give you a better idea of my situation and enable you to understand how I was placed, but which mayhap you were too busy to read--I naturally (don't you think) thought you had decided to the check at the \$75? rate, as the use I proposed to make of the extra \$25.,--which would count \$50. to me in the payment of the mortgage on my home. I therefore continued my arrangements to that effect with our bank, by giving my note for \$100. for 30 days, and seeing a credit given me on the mortgage of \$200. every month--paying the note by a credit of \$25. weekly from the I.O. check.

I had just given one of these notes and had the credit entered on the mortgage, when not receiving any check for the Bystander of June 17th, Mr Irvin wrote me in answer to the inquiry if it had been sent, that you had directed him not to send any check for that week and only a \$50. check hereafter for the Bystander. It was just at the time of my mother's death and all the additional expenses consequent to that event. The 2 weeks following the checks came promptly for \$50., until this week none at all has been received. In consequence I have had the mortification of seeing the time go by for the payment of my note without an endorsement on it. I have always

3

taken just pride in my prompt and strict business dealings, which is one of the reasons the holder of the mortgage has been so kind to me, as he is the very acme of business promptness and to him to not keep a promise like mine is a sin almost unpardonable. I am sure you would be sorry for me if you could know what sleepless nights and harrowing days I have passed this week by not knowing what was your purpose in the matter. Receiving the \$75. check as usual, I had not the slightest idea but what it was all right, and no one who has never been there can estimate my happiness in seeing the big debt melt away week by week. I see now I had not seen the difference between sentiment and business. I would not have asked it however, had I not supposed the Judge's work was worth it to THE INTER OCEAN. I would not be a beggar.

You say in your letter to the Judge that when you discovered Mr Irvin's mistake you instructed him to send only \$50?, hereafter. Then he did not understand you that he was not to send any check for the week that he missed in June. In view of the mistaken impression as to the amounts paid as corrected in the Judge's letter of this morning and the explanation I make here will you not instruct him on Monday when you receive this to send this missing check of June and the one for this week and the one for next all together to me--viz \$150., as early as possible that I may get it on Tuesday before the bank closes? It seems to me that this is nothing more than right and just.

Please pardon the bother I make you. I know what is to me so important, all-absorbing, is at the tiniest bit of the matters that may worry you. I hope I have not said anything that may be annoying to you. The Judge knows nothing about this letter, nor about anything in connection with finances. I bear all the burdens of this kind.