

The Inter Ocean.

Chicago, Nov. 17, 1893.

Mrs. A. W. Tourgee,

Mayville, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Tourgee:--

I was glad to have your letter of the 11th although I scarcely know what to say in reply. I am as much in the dark as to the plans of the publishers so far as **Bystanders Notes** are concerned as I was when the notes were suspended. I was not consulted at that time, and I have not been conferred with since. I have made no secret of my own attitude in the question, and you and the Judge can readily understand what that was and is. You both can understand my reluctance to discuss any phase of this question. A man in my position is bound by certain rules of courtesy and discipline which make explanations difficult. This much I can say, the attempt to injure The Inter Ocean, when the **Bystanders notes** were suspended, and the insinuation made that the paper had in some way abandoned its stalwart republicanism, wounded and offended Mr. Nixon. You can understand that after twenty years labor in giving tone to The Inter Ocean, and after he made a reputation for extreme friendliness toward the colored race, and the southern republicans, that it seemed to him impertinent and gratuitously offensive for anyone to intimate or insinuate that the paper abandoned its advanced position simply because the articles of a contributor were dropped. The people who conducted that campaign, and there was evidence of organization, seemed to have been ignorant of, or to have

The Inter Ocean.

Chicago.

purposely ignored the record made by The Inter Ocean, and I wrote some letters in reply, and Mr. Nixon wrote some others, which I fancy made pretty good reading for the gentlemen who made complaints. Looking forward to what I much desired, I very much regret the course of these people, because they injured the cause of the Bystander and provoked a resentment that is not easy to quiet. I regretted it the more because it seemed extremely cruel to Mr. Nixon, who yielded to the pressure of circumstances in suspending the Bystander— circumstances as pitiless probably as ever came in his experience. I think, however, that the general discussion resulted in good, because I took occasion to write to all the people who wrote to me, and to speak frankly to all who called, making so clear the fact that The Inter Ocean was primarily and always a radical republican paper that the atmosphere cleared. I write this so that you may understand that there has been a good deal of feeling on the question, but as to the out come I must admit that I know absolutely nothing.

If I was asked to advise the Judge about the new paper "The National Citizen" I would be against it. It is a bad time to start any new venture in journalism. If the parties interested would guarantee the necessary capital, and guarantee a good salary to the man who would do the work the case would be different, but I do not believe that the Judge ought to sacrifice himself in a cause in which he already has made so many sacrifices.

Very sincerely,

Wm A Busbey
Managing Editor.