The Inter Ocean.

Chicago, Oct 5th 1894.

I strictly confidential

Dear Judge

As I am going to write what I do care to have an employe see or know I shall ~~[illegible]~~ tho' very greatly rushed write their letter with my own hand - Last Spring I was compelled to either lose my hold on the Inter Ocean or buy out the man whom as a friend in whom I entirely confided I had taken in to help me make the paper the success I aspired to make it - To do this was a great strain - I was compelled to make large calls on friends and I should failed had they not responded as I could scarcely hope they would - I did succeed to the great surprise of my friends - He is a man of a great many good point but of great ambition - The taste of ~~[illegible]~~ power two years in the Inter Ocean gave him made that ambition untenable and he became ready to do things that two years before he would not have given a second thought - If he had had any experience and known how to expend money so as to get back reasonable returns he would

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have made a good newspaper man — As it was he ~~largely~~ largely increased our indebtedness — As soon as got possession I began Retrenchment and Reform but to carry that out without injury to the paper you must know is a serious problem — Over four hundred people, even after my Reduction, are now employed about the Establishment — To make it worse the Cleveland hard times pressed worse and worse and the strike and all combined made July & August the worst two months for business Chicago newspapers have ever had — In the meantime our people have been insisting that I must still greatly reduce expenses — Writing from New York our Eastern business representative who is also a large stockholder and a Director says there is only one way you must cut down the pay Roll and all expenses — There is no other way — The business is not here and you cannot expect — There is some improvement but will not be Restored in time to save you — So I am going at it with a knife knowing that my salvation depends upon it — I do not want to dismiss

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013

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Your as I want to keep the By Stander but under the circumstances I must do so or cut the compensation in two - I never like to reduce compensation and especially in a case like yours but in the present situation I Really have no choice - I write fully and confidentially to you as I do not want any misunderstanding as I fear there was once before - As to the future I cannot promise as there is no telling what can be done under the present administration - It will take much better times to enable me to recoup the losses since 1891 - I have written this in the greatest confidence and what ever you may decide I trust you will so consider and treat it and not speak of it even to Mr Busbey -

Yours Truly

Wm Penn Nicholls

Judge A. W. Tourgee
Mayville