Little Compton R.I.
July 25, 1895

My Dear Judge Tourgée

I was heartily glad to get your favor of 22d inst and to note its tone of courage and cheer. I am sorry any operation or continued illness should confront you. But the secret of life is a stout heart, and on this theory, you have "life abundantly." The number of the Basis just at hand is it seems to me a strong one with the justification for being. I feel, with you, that the Basis must abide.

I note what you say about a photograph; I have none by me; and if I had except for your own eye, I would deprecate its publicity. I am very loath to go into print except with ideas and the written word. Do not misunder-

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stand this; it is one of my peculiarities. I have had to make the same answer to the Mathews & Co application for publishing picture and sketch in their men of Western New York. Perhaps it is foolish but I do so hate even the suspicion of posing. I have never, as you have so fully, done anything to justify public interest in my person.

Do you propose to take up further the police matter in Buffalo touching Excise - and Sunday-closing? I ought to say to you that I have deprecated as much as anyone the weakness of the Commissioners, but I refused to join the Crusade against them proposed by Rev Mr. Mott & others because of several reasons:-

1. I have no confidence in the good judgment of the men who are leading in the matter.

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3/ I tried to save them from "The Gold Dollar" blunder but tried in vain. It turned out exactly as I told Mott & Co in advance. It was an Effort burnload.

2. The Statute is so drawn touching license and sale, that I am convinced it cannot be enforced, without great outlay and probably not at all.

3. I, personally, believe we must change the whole method by adopting some plan which shall move upon lines of local option with strict enforcement, or else Legislative action for revision of statute - Closing light on Sundays until 3 P.M. and then open under police supervision. If the matter is taken up next year, I will have to be counted against the Effort to reestablish the puritan Sabbath. As a matter of fact although the Official

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4 in Buffalo can give no excuse for their neglect of a plain duty; the violation of the Statute does not result in actual disorder. It happens that the Germans and Italians are law-abiding and not given to strong liquors.

The situation in New York is different, where it was a matter of "pull" and "blackmail" to secure exemption. And the Commissioners of Police have done the only honest and honorable thing, open to them. I will not air my views in the Basis without your consent; but there is a very interesting story back of all this as touching a former effort. My hope is that the Legislature will take the matter up and settle it either by a clear statute which can be enforced, or local option and a vote of the people, or else a more open and liberal Sunday regulated by Law.

I had rather a pleasant thing happen the other day, my

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mail in one day brought me
1. an invitation from The New World to
furnish ~~it~~ an article on "Mr Balfour
and his Critics" (Foundations of Belief), 2. an
invitation to join in the furnishing of
Sermons to be published editorially
in all the papers of a large Syndi-
cate to reach non-church goers.
3. An invitation to ~~election~~ membership in The
Shakespeare Society of New York - As
this last was due to a recent
article in The New England Maga-
zine on "Shakespeare's Fools", it
rather pleased me. The mail
that day quite set me up in
Conceit. I tell you, who are
so used to these things as to
value them lightly, but sympa-
thise with the younger brethren in
Literature. I am busy with
some Reviews for the New World
~~and~~ touching Early Church History -
- my Especial field, and have just
sent a review to the Literary World on
Religion and Civil Govt in United States
May I ask to be re-
membered Cordially to those members

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of your family who have it in their power to add to the pleasure of my future by allowing me their acquaintance at some time to come.

I sent off a bal'l of Copy yesterday - while I am away and G. G. Club matters are taking a rest, I have used some matter Germain to my department from Brundage of Albany and Van Ness of Boston, the first as you saw in last week's issue, the second in the copy just forwarded - I write & send a little more than my usual stint, hoping to lighten your load.

Always Yours

Thomas R. Slicer.

I had a letter from Dr Parkhurst (Vevey, Switzerland) - holding out some hope that he will speak for us in Buffalo in October - Also half-promise from Roosevelt.

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