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Fords, Howard, & Hulbert,

No. 47 East Tenth St., New York.

Feb. 10th. 1896.

Mrs A. W. Tourgee.

Dear Mrs Tourgee:-

Before Mr. Bell sent Dr. Brinton his account, we agreed it would be worth while to write him and see whether there was no possibility of his releasing the balance of the security on his old note. Accordingly I wrote. After apologizing for intervening in the matter I stated this:" It has been our impression that through your relations with Mr. Davis the stock cost you nothing, and had you not sold it to Judge Tourgee it would have brought you nothing -- as it did to him. You received for it $3,000. and have thus far had, also, $1050.47 as interest; that is to say, as nearly as it may be reckoned, 2 1/2% for 13 years and 8 mos. As investments go, that is not a bad return, even as it stands." We then proceeded to make an appeal upon personal grounds, which you will comprehend.

To-day we receive a letter from him in which he says: "I appreciate the sympathy which prompted you to write, and I respect it. If the matter stood as you suppose it does, to accede to your suggestion would be almost a duty. Unfortunately my position has been widely different. When I entered the newspaper enterprise with Judge Tourgee and Mr. Davis I put into it $10,000. in

cash upon their request and upon their representations. As you know, after a few months the concern disolved. Mr. Davis withdrew and the Judge remained, and as I refused to accede to his proposition about the Journal he offered me the very much reduced price for my interest, for the pay ment of which he assigned the copyrights as collateral. If every dollar is paid me I shall still be a loser of many thousands of dollars..... My personal relations with Judge Tourgee never extended to those of friendship; they were exclusively those of business only. He had many acquaintances with whom he was intimate and who now ought to come forward and aid him. What I am asked to concede is to contribute outright a sum of money which to me is an important one and thus to increase my already large loss by that much..... That is the true state of the case, and surely I do not think that I of all others should be asked to make a contribution of the sum named..... The above statement, to all of which Mr. Davis, I am sure, will give testimony if needed, will place this painful matter before you in its true light and exonerate me from any charge of harsh dealing in asking the payments."

Of course under that stetement, as we have written him, we have nothing further to ~~write~~ urge in the matter, and have therefore sent him the accounting for the year and his check for the balance, which you will have seen on the statement. We are all very

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sorry that the matter could not have been otherwise arranged, but it seems to be a hopeless quest. We thought it worth at least one trial from our end, and therefore made it in all good will; but, as you see, without success.

Faithfully Yours,

J. R. Howard

I picked up "Figs & Thistles" last night where one of my boys had left it, & striking in the middle had to finish it before going to bed. That is a Stray Story. I wish the Judge would (or could for I suppose his engagements make it impossible) write another Story. It would freshen up all the others.