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The Midland Monthly

Johnson Brigham, Editor and Publisher.

J. H. Purcell, Advertising Manager.

Des Moines, Iowa, March 7, 1896.

Hon. Albion W. Tourgee, Mayville.

My Dear Sir: My greatest editorial embarrassment being my inability to satisfy the reasonable expectations of authors whose stories I accepted in '95 and '94, I have [illegible] to somewhat "clear the decks" before taking on any more cargo. Hence my prompt return of your MS. You set no price upon the story, so that I have no basis of knowledge as to what you might expect as compensation for short stories?

Yours very truly, Johnson Brigham

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2015

I oy to acknowledge you
~~I have your~~ letter of the 7th. ~~in which you say~~

~~As for short stories. I so seldom write them that my price is indefinite.~~

As to my price for short stories the cosmopolitan, the only magazine ~~I have for~~ I deal with, pays me $209 (cut) for bulk ranging from 8000 – 12000 words. Stories shorter than that I seldom write.

I was under the impression that "The Midland monthly had some years ago asked ~~requested~~ ~~that~~ I've "seen them something." An astral pantheon ~~was~~ is the only thing I have written for years suitable to it. As it is not an elaborate thing I will take $55 for it. My daughter says she will make illustrations (wash or pen & ink) for $25. if you wish.

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013