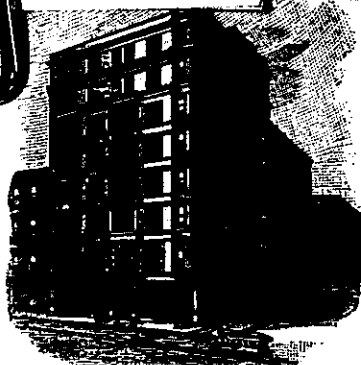


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OFFICE OF

THE WESTERN METHODIST BOOK CONCERN, { 220-222 West Fourth St., CINCINNATI, O.  
57 Washington Street, CHICAGO, ILL.  
1505 Locust Street, ST. LOUIS, MO.

CRANSTON &amp; CURTS, Agents,

Dictated.

CINCINNATI, O., 3/7/1896.

220-222 W. Fourth St., Cincinnati, O.

Miss Aimee Tourgee,

Mayville, N.Y.,

Dear Miss Tourgee:-

We sincerely wish that we could see our way clear to accept your proposition. Since writing you, however, the agents have had a consultation about business affairs in general, and we have decided that it would be best for the house to invest little or no money in new enterprises during these times.

Money matters are very close in the West, with less favorable prospects at this hour than there have been for years. If some power above or below could induce the politicians at Washington to think a little of the business interests of the country, and of the sufferings of the people, instead of devoting all their time to advancing individual claims to party recognition, the present distress might be relieved, but there seems to be no hope of any such exercise of political virtue or common sense on the part of the gentlemen just now engaged in organizing political stock companies.

Most of our business men have become discouraged and the outlook is by no means inspiring. Dependent as we are upon the general prosperity, we think no other course is open to us than the one we have deliberately decided upon.

Sincerely regretting that we cannot be of service to you at this time, we are,

Very respectfully yours,

*C. A. Curtis*