Franklin Thomas,

ILLUSTRATOR,

134 Madison Street,
[redacted] Room 2.

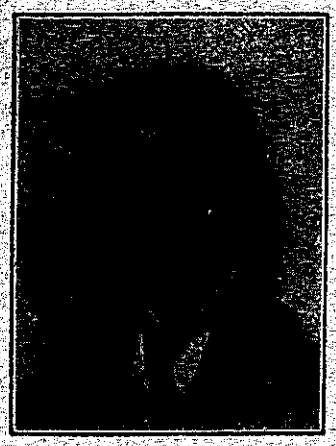
Chicago, Apr. 11, 18

Albion W. Tourgee

Dear Sir:

your letter published in the Chi
Record, commending the story, "Sons and Fath
convinces me that you are the one man
America with whom I should communicate
upon a similar subject.

I have a story entitled "The White Raven"
founded upon inherited memory, that is n
about ready for publication. Three years a
the work was commenced, hence the idea i
taken from Mr. Edwards' story. I have handl
the subject from a very different standpoint
have introduced logical evidence into a startl
romance. Persons who have read his story a
mine declare mine to be far superior. I rea



Franklin Thomas,

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Chicago, ... 1896.

that my language may be less polished than the work of some writers, but in other respects I know that my story is at least the equal of anything that has appeared in recent years.

This remark would strike ordinary people as a wonderful display of egotism, but I believe you to be a man who realizes that there are people who can put a correct estimate upon themselves and their work.

My object in writing you is to ask you to read my story when completed, and if it meets your approval to give me a letter expressing your candid opinion. My idea is to use your letter and opinion as a means of securing just and prompt consideration from publishing houses, which, as an unknown writer I would

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Chicago, ... 1896.

otherwise find difficult. However I do not want or expect a favorable letter from you unless the story actually merits it in your opinion.

A Chicago publisher made me a liberal offer for the book, two years ago, when it was yet in a crude state, but as I have not for a moment doubted that more prominent houses would be glad to get it, I declined the offer.

Kindly write me at your convenience, as to whether or not you care to read the manuscript story. As "Sons and Fathers" interested you, I am confident that "The White Raven" will more greatly interest you.

Respectfully
Franklin Thomas.