John A. Grier,
Jobber in Engineering Supplies,
1436 Monadnock Building.
Telephone Harrison 576.

Chicago, March 22 1897

Hon. A. W. Tourgee.

Dear Sir;

You have evidently obtained my rejected article which I sent to the Inter-Ocean.

From a talk I had with Mr. Busby there is no intention of allowing anyone to antagonize your views in that paper. Hence, my pen is at rest.

To have a gentleman for whom I have so high an opinion, as I have of you — to go ahead and do an immense amount of injury as you are doing — is too much for me without a protest. You are just as certainly wrong as the evangelical preachers were in 1860-61 & 65, who kept proclaiming that Christianity & black slavery were consistent. Many of them — personal friends — had the best of characters and great intellectual attainments — but you & I know that they were mistaken. You — in my estimation — are engaged in a moral offense just as wicked. I know you can not see it & I can not show you your error. You give your position as a logician entirely [illegible]

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that silver legislation (of 1873-74-78-90-93) has not caused a decline in prices.

Please stop — light a good cigar and when well lighted — just ask yourself this simple question — Would not prices throughout the world be greater today — had our U.S. mints been kept open to the free coinage of silver and our silver dollars thus coined remained as under the law of 1792 — "Shall be a lawful tender [illegible] in all payments whatsoever". I will not tire you by further debate — but do hope that as a Christian gentleman and patriot who has done so much for mankind — that you may see what rank injustice you are now helping to perpetuate.

No other religious question, to me is greater than justice between men. On the steel question I enclose you a late price sheet. First class steel — such as is used in our best services has not been reduced so wonderfully in price. As to low grade steel like rails — we had none — did not know how to make it.

Yours sincerely

John A. Grier