FORDS, HOWARD, & HULBERT,
PUBLISHERS,
Bible House, New York City.

Jan. 22, 1903

Hon. A. W. Tourgee
Bordeaux, France

My dear Judge -

Yours of the 7th inst came duly. You state the case correctly, as to figures. You have accepted the price proposed for our half-interest in the plates of Fool, Bricks, Figs, R.G., Eax, Hot Pl. — $300; and for the plates & publishing rights of Bl. Ice & Eastman — $75: total, for our interest in your books, $375.

The plates of "Man" we will include, if they have not already been melted; & we think they have not, altho we so instructed the printers some days ago.

For some years we have been renting storage for plates in a vault under the Bklyn Bridge. The owner of the Beecher plates, and those of some others infrequently printed, have paid their proportion of rent. But we have never charged up any of the rent we have paid for your plates. — We have arranged with

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013

the printer to retain these, subject to your order, at the same price that we have been paying.

The deeds of sale, &c, to Jan 1 we will render in a few days.

We will of course execute proper instruments of sale and assignment whenever you prepare them. We suggest, however, that the copyright be assigned in a separate instrument, with $1.00 as the consideration named, since these are the only assignments needed to be recorded in Washington, & you probably do not care to have the whole transaction spread on the public record for the inspection of whom it may — or may not — concern.

It may have relieved your feelings to go back to the argument of our "legal right for such a change" as the proposition for a sale of the plates, &c. We do not "wish" to abandon our contract "with you: one simply must. In my letter to Mrs. J. Nov. 24 we yielded all claim to a right and wrote: "If he wants to 'dump' the plates for old metal, so be it."

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013

FORDS, HOWARD, & HULBERT,
PUBLISHERS,
Bible House, New York City.

7

Your reply of Dec 8 said: "If You will put a price on your interest in each Set of the plates of my works, I will buy all or as many as I can, if your price is within my reach!"

On Dec. 24 we answered, fixing what we regarded as a fair price, under the circumstances; and on Jan. 7, 1903 You accepted it.

We tried to meet your views; and you tried to meet ours. We have measurably succeeded in our mutual concessions. You have made your main point, and control your books, at a low figure: while we have not been crowded to sacrifice what we believed to be our rights in selling the Tongue books for old metal, — although to please you we had offered to do it.

So, in starting out on this new year, You and we — even though we are breaking up the long-time business association which has had its profitable sea-

tures for both parties — do not break up the friendship, or find a shadow on the many happy memories of nearly thirty years that we have worked together.

That, after all, is the largest satisfaction in the minds & hearts of

Yours faithfully,

Fords, Howard, Hulbert

by J. R. Howard

Our lease of vault-room expires Feb. 15. Yours will begin then, & we will send full details at the time of consummating the sale.

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2015