

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF MINING ENGINEERS.
99 JOHN STREET,
NEW YORK.

February 22, 1906.

Dear Mrs. Tourgee:

I have received your
letter of February 19th.

What you are to understand from my delay in replying to your previous letter is, that when you challenge me on a question of veracity the issue is going to be met---and if this delays my plans and your expectations, you must await the result as patiently as you can. I cannot consent to the settlement of the matter you have brought up, unless it is all settled, issues of veracity included. This (together with some interference of illness, and preoccupation with a change of business) is taking some time; for, while I, too, have records, I could not lay my hand on them for a reply by return mail.

Your "full and complete explanation"

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was too full and too complete to satisfy my general recollection of the circumstances of twenty odd years ago, and I have found it necessary to get at the exact facts for your better information.

I think it very unfortunate that after all these years our intercourse should be resumed under circumstances involving unnecessary controversy; and I could wish that you had simply accepted my offer to comply with your wishes if, after my explanation, you still entertained them. Instead of this, you have chosen to find evidence of prevarication in my plain statement of my entirely innocent sense of proprietorship in the article you claim, and I must show you what the evidence is worth.

I must have talked very frankly with you about my private affairs when we met in 1886---and I can understand that I would have assumed a personal interest in my fortunes on the part of an old friend, who would be glad to know that, although the

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Continent episode had broken up my career (for my welcome at Fords, Howard and Hulbert's ceased when I was so easily "borrowed" to serve the Continent) there had been for me nevertheless some mitigating circumstances.

I must also have been in a somewhat expansive mood, to have assured you that I had received my salary in full for Continent services. Whatever I told you (or you understood me to say) the cash account shows the fact to have been that, on July 25, 1884, I received a payment in full to July 14th--and thereafter nothing; while I was engaged in raising and borrowing money and disbursing for Continent expenses, up to September 30th of that year. So I think we must let it stand as a summer of unrequited work---without reference to the further months of attention to lawyers and court business, in the absence of every other Continent representative. If I paid Mr. Little \$1000 for the illustration blocks and made some money selling electrotypes,

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that was a speculation any outsider might have engaged in, and I owed the Continent no thanks for that.

Prophecy also seems to have entered into my communication of 1886--- for the purchase of the copyrights and other intangible assets (so carefully listed in your quoted memorandum of that year) was not effected until October 12, 1888. The inaccuracy of your memorandum has misled you into the very fault of misstatement of facts that you would convict me of---though why you should wish to I cannot imagine.

Except for your second letter, I would not have dwelt overmuch on the ungraciousness of your original demand for the chair; but the spirit of that letter intensified the original offensiveness of the first one. It seems that this chair came into my hands, not because I needed it, in a house where furniture had been accumulating for sixty years, but because you had no room for it elsewhere---

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and after twenty years of accomodation you peremptorily demand it back in a condition of perfect repair, in such terms as one would use in demanding the restoration of stolen property. I trust that you have been able to effect storage on your other belongings on terms equally advantageous, which the patrons of the warehouses would find very attractive.

I now turn the whole matter over to Mrs. Howard, who will attend to the business of getting the chair prepared and shipped at her convenience. I am sorry to believe that the events of the past few weeks will make her very glad to see the last of it.

Very truly yours,

W. A. Howard