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1890

## Charles Chesnutt Correspondence- Letter to Mr. Cable, February 1890

Charles W. Chesnutt

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might be doing the author a service to suggest  
to quit writing when he has used up  
his stock of ideas.  
February 4, 1890

53.

Cleveland, O., Feb'y 4, 1890.

My dear Mr. Cable:-

In my letter to you of yesterday I forgot to mention something that strikes me as either a remarkable coincidence or a rather bold plagiarism. The February number of the Century contains a <sup>Contribution</sup> story by H. S. Edwards, entitled "How Sal' Came Through".

About three years ago I published in a ~~story~~ <sup>Washington</sup> paper, called "Family Fiction", a ~~story~~ <sup>story</sup> entitled, "How Dasy Came Through". It was ~~a story~~ <sup>about</sup> of a colored girl who had a sweetheart. Another girl with a new dress and ~~bunnet~~ <sup>hat</sup> cut her out and caught the fickle swain, to Dasy's great chagrin. ~~But she recovered the lost~~ <sup>her mother advised there was a revival</sup> ground by a rather ingenious expedient. ~~There was a revival in~~ progress at the colored church. Dasy went to the mourners' bench for several evenings, and one night managed to "come through" just at a time when her successful rival, clad in the new dress and ~~bunnet~~ <sup>hat</sup>, was standing near her. In the irresponsible frenzy of her "coming through" Dasy ~~took~~ <sup>made</sup> the new dress to shreds and reduced the ~~new bunnet~~ <sup>hat</sup> to a wreck. ~~The remedy was efficacious, and when~~ she came out in a new dress of her own the next Sunday, in all the odor of sanctity, the fickle Dolphus returned to his first love. If that is n't ~~exact~~ the story in the Century, then I have n't read it correctly. It is padded a good deal more than mine, but the substance is the same, even to the name. Of course it may be only a coincidence, but it certainly is a curious one. I have ~~the~~ <sup>other</sup> story.

*Very respectfully yours,*  
*Wm. Lloyd Garrison*

I don't know how far  
 you will be in  
 from Salter's  
 for the new  
 Dasy's  
 the new hat  
 the new hat  
 the new hat

in fact  
 the  
 matter  
 the  
 Century