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*Return to  
Mr. Tarbell  
120 S. 19th*

*and*

LAW OFFICES OF  
CHARLES S. THOMAS  
—AND—  
GEORGE K. THOMAS  
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING  
DENVER, COLORADO

*former U.S. Senator  
from Colorado*

May 1st, 1925.

My dear Madam:-

I have just finished the first installment of your life of Judge E. H. Gary with the keepest interest and pleasure, and am looking forward with some impatience for the next installment. This is due in large part no doubt to a brief and remote, but very enjoyable contact with Judge Gary fifty-three years ago. We were very young men belonging to the same profession and endeavoring to discern the outlines of that "upper gallery" of the profession, which is said to have more room than company.

I had been admitted the year before and was then a sort of general utility roustabout in the law office of Sayre & Wright, the leading firm in the Territory. It enjoyed a monopoly of the Corporation clientage of the day, which enabled and required it to employ help at modest salaries. Some of my duties were well parodied a few years afterwards in Gilbert & Sullivan's Pinafore, albeit the front door had no brass knob to polish.

About eight o'clock one July morning in 1872, (we were twelve hour day people then), a smartly dressed, keen visioned young man entered the office and inquired for Mr. Alfred Sayre. He handed me his card which read "Gary & Gary, Attorneys at Law, Chicago." It also recited his full name and that of his brother, Noah. I took him into Mr. Sayre's room where he remained in

consultation for the morning. He represented Gen. Byron J. Sweet, then U. S. Pension Commissioner, who owned a large ranch near Colorado Springs, operated by associates who were involving him in prospective ruin. His instructions were to engage the firm of Savre and Wright to safeguard and represent the Sweet interests, and to aid them in such manner as they might require. This speedily involved proceedings in bankruptcy against the delinquents, somewhat unusual in this then distant and sparsely inhabited Territory. No printed or blank forms being immediately available for the petitions and preliminary orders, Mr. Gary prepared them himself. This being prior to the advent of the stenographer and typewriter, it proved a task of hours. But his intimacy with the mechanics of procedure was even then so extensive that he had no difficulty in the performance of his task beyond the drudgery of their preparation.

Without the slightest desire to minimize the services of his Colorado associates, it is due to him to say that Mr. Gary was the dominant figure in the controversy. He devoted himself unreservedly to it, yet with constant deference to his seniors, who so far as I can recall, never had occasion to question his judgment or suggestions as situations (and there were many) developed in the litigation. And he brought the case to a successful conclusion. His client's estate was rescued from ruin and practically every contention waged in his interest was ultimately sustained.

He remained in Denver for something like three weeks, during which time I gave him such aid as he requested, and all the

companionship that his mission permitted. He was too self sufficient, however, and too absorbed in his client's affairs to need any material assistance from anyone. After he had returned home, Mr. Sayre, a dignified and serious gentleman and a very able lawyer remarked that "this young Gary is about the most competent lawyer and practical man of affairs for his age that I ever encountered."

This episode occurred in the early stages of the Grant and Greeley campaign. Mr. Gary was an ardent and uncompromising Republican, and I was equally devoted to the Democracy, but not at all content with its selection of Horace Greeley as its candidate. We took long evening walks together during his visit and much of our talk had to do with politics. Our discussions occasionally took on a highly partisan character, for "politics was politics" in those days. Men took their partisanship as they did their religion, and bitter were the ensuing animosities. But we avoided any such manifestations, which was comparatively easy as I detested Greeley rather more than he did. He ended one of these exchanges of sentiment with the statement that he wanted to see Grant reelected and then he wanted Colfax to succeed him. After that he didn't expect to be greatly interested in politics.

We also discussed our profession and our ambitions for the future. He was filled with enthusiasm for Chicago and the certainty of its future. He declared that no young lawyer could fail of success there, if he was in earnest and labored as he must anywhere in any calling if he expected to win out. I had a

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like faith in Denver. Events have justified both of us, but him in the Path degree."

About a year ago it was my good fortune to meet the Judge, who, with Mrs. Gary, was on the Congressional Limited en route from New York for Washington. We were naturally delighted to meet each other after so many years. Although we had occasionally met in the long interval, this was our first opportunity to have a real visit and review old times in Denver. I was not at all surprised that every incident of his visit in 1872 was as fresh and green in his recollection as though they had occurred yesterday. He recalled names, places, dates, occasions, bits of discussions of his case, the trial, result, and the final disposition of it and afterwards the fortunes of General Sweet, who, though one of the prominent men of his day, has long since passed into oblivion.

Your biography of this eminent lawyer and extraordinary industrial leader will not only enrich the current annals of men and measures, but will give to this generation, and I trust to many others, the opportunity to study the life and character of one of our most successful selfmade men, a life that can well serve now and hereafter as the standard of noble and virile Americanism.

Very truly yours,

