

the matter do it as practically and plainly as you can. Give it *life* and the vitality of *facts*.

Now, I will give you a sort of general synopsis of my idea — of course, everything is subject to your own revision and change. The article, we will say, is written by a *typical* train hoister — one without your education and powers of expression (*bouquet*) but intelligent enough to convey his ideas from *his standpoint* — not from John Wanamaker's. Yet, in order to please John, we will have to assume a virtue that we do not possess. Comment on the moral side of the proposition as little as possible. Do not claim that holding up trains is the only business a gentleman would engage in, and, on the contrary, do not depreciate a profession that is really only financiering with spurs on. Describe the *facts* and *details* — all that part of the proceedings that the passenger sitting with his hands up in a Pullman looking into the end of a tunnel in the hands of one of the performers does not see. Here is a rough draft of my idea: Begin abruptly, without any philosophizing, with your idea of the best times, places and conditions for the hold-up — compare your opinions of this with those of others — mention some poorly conceived attempts and failures of others, giving your opinion why — as far as possible refer to actual occurrences, and incidents — describe the manner of a hold-up, how many men is best, where they are stationed, how do they generally go into it, nervous? or joking? or solemnly. The details of stopping the train, the duties of each man of the gang — the behavior of the train