

7.00 net
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Edith Thomas

" Post & writer "

Ashtabula Co.,
Geneva, Ohio, March 19, 1885.

Henry C. Bowen, Esq.,

Sir:

I am very sensible of the high honor conferred by your invitation to participate in the patriotic celebration at Woodstock; and I beg you will accept my sincere thanks for this gratifying mark of favor. — But having carefully considered the matter, it appears to me that the invitation must be declined, as it is very doubtful that I could prepare anything in the nature of an

"historical poem" that would be adequate to the occasion. I have had no practice in the writing of "occasional" verse, which, - as it seems to me, to be acceptable, requires a peculiar vein of talent. - I much dislike to promise work to be ready at any given time, lest circumstances or my own inability should interfere with its performance. - I am convinced that the "good cause", which appeals to me as a good American, can nevertheless be more efficiently aided by some other muse than mine. -

I take the liberty to enclose a bit of a lyric (just written), which I hope may find favor with The Independent. If it should not be so fortunate, will you kindly return the manuscript?

Very truly yours,
Edith M. Thomas.