

We are making a new & proper slip cut for it; a Capt said you liked the idea of having it at the end.

Standard Books.

FORDS, HOWARD, & HULBERT

No. 21 PARK PLACE.

(GOODS ENTRANCE: 24 MURRAY ST.)

New York, 29 Sept 1885

"I thank thee, Jew, for teaching me that word" in reference to the slab-sided primer at the end of the book. "Damned spot" is good! (What should we do without the Divine Williams to help us express our feelings?) I howled when I saw it.

The Erratum in printing; the plate 343 shall be changed; the last page is changed - I had the plate taken off the press to make it as you wish.

As to "Who-o-o-o" did it all & why; Capt says that you wrote the end of the story, & then afterwards came in with the trestle-board patch, & then went away before seeing the garment with the tail on. And when he & all hands read it they thought it ^{had} a very queer look because the story was not completed (the conversation

stopping short) and then the broad general peroration came right on as a part of it, which it of course was not. So they put their heads together & put in the remark about the too earnest man parting, as a close; it being too late to consult you, & yet the thing seems to be palpable & reasonable.

I must confess I agree with them, for I read the conclusion with a sense of completeness, while as it is now to be it seems to me crude & unfinished. However, it is your funeral & you shall have as many or as few plumes in the hearse as you want. So don't be backward about speaking your mind! The end shall be "rough-hewn", or "shaped", by the divinity that brought it into being.

That "poor man's war" is a blunder indeed. I noticed it in the Com. Adv. review of the book & said to myself "That can't be right!" However, it must have been so in your manuscript

and as you saw it in both slip
and page proof I think you must
shoulder the responsibility of that.

About the Preface looking
crowded you are right, too: but
it is not because it needs an-
other page. It should have been
in one very smaller type &
it could have looked far hand-
somer. The proof sent to me in
Cambridge had for the word "who"
"Who? Who-o! Who-o-o!" Now had
they all been ?'s I should have
seen some point; but as it was,
I thought it a typographical
error & suggested the change
of the ? to conform with the
other !'s. I supposed that of
course you would pass it,
as you were still here. It is
not strange that during those last
few days there were small
things forgotten, so it all had
to be done with a dash. If
it could have been done in a
less hand-to-mouth style
all around it would have
been better of course - both
for the writer & the book.

As it is, I am a set-off
outside, & considering all things
I think it a very creditable
piece of work, although there
are things about it that I
would have liked to have
different.

In reference to the margin,
my friend, you are wrong.
The margin of "Pierik" is larger
than you will find in any of
Roberts Brothers' lightest books,
larger even than "Aspects of
an Emersonian 'Parnassus'" or Whittier's
"Songs of three Centuries". You
must remember that there is a
fitting in things, and a novel
with a margin as broad as an
art book is not good style.

The delay were not wholly
due to a change of ideas about
the chances of sale - though
you are wrong there, too. We did
not "know six months ago as
well as now". It was problemati-
cal as to a push: it was rea-
sonably sure for a good sale.
So, when we began by printing
3000 of "Fool's Errand" & 2000 "Figs",

At the binder's
We began with 15,000 "Bricks";
and it was when that edition was
half printed, that, on account of
the way the newspapers took
one floating paragraph, the
trade talked to us whenever we
met them, & our customers in-
quired, we ordered more paper
& printed 25,000. However, even
so, had the printer kept their
promise we should have had
no delay. There has been a
vast deal of cursing, dis-
appointment, broken promises,
accidents to machinery, blun-
ders in the printing office; &
at last the same course of
damnable iteration of dis-
appointments, so that we had
to take 5000 sheets away from
the binder who had the job &
give them to another to help
go on, even for the delayed
publication. And even so, we
are going to have had work
to spare the books we want.
The day, 12,000 books is
a good many to make, (especially

for critical & judicial inspection!)
And the people have books to
be made as well as we, &
binders are human, & can
frequently blunder, over-
worked men, & occasionally
liars. — etc. etc.

Nevertheless,
we are going to have a big
boom on "Bricks", and with
our friend Grant (no longer
"Useless" but the very ally
of modern civilization) to
incorporate an advertisement
of Folsi Enard into a
2 minute speech that is
teletyped all over the
country, and all the newspa-
pers ago to
push, & all

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New York,

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J. N. H. to furnish them
remarkable remarks to
short though their con-
venient speaking trumpets,
it will be fine if we
don't make a whoop &
a halloo that will arouse
the land from the woods
of Thame to the what d'ye
call em of Texas!

Book is a grand
book, Judge. I have felt
it in my bones, & now I
know it.

Didn't mean to buy
you with so much but
got going.

Yours hopefull

J. N. H.