

Reply. Sept. 29th 1887.

Gentlemen:

I have yours of the 27th with enclosure.

I regret exceedingly that you are troubled with the persistent attentions of Mr. Blair. I know it must be unpleasant but I do not think any damage can accrue to you from it beyond the trouble of answering his letters.

The contract, as you will see was intended "to grant time and opportunity" to my husband to pay certain debts, yet exactly one month Mr. Blair brought suit upon this very indebtedness while my husband was in the very midst of the work agreed upon. Since that time Blair has threatened every newspaper and magazine for which the Judge wrote just as he has been annoying you. By his own act Mr Blair invalidated this contract, even if it ever had any force.

Fords, Howard & Hulbert are now printing a book to which the Judge's name is attached, but not under this contract whise Blair assigns as a reason for troubling you but for another party and I think he has no more idea of suing that suicide but is just biting round like a blind snake to see who he can scare.

I enclose a suggestion of an answer to Mr. Blair.

Chas H. Blair.

We have yours of the 26th and await your farther proceedings with entire composure, being advised that no possible liability can attach to us because of the contract you claim, if it has an ~~slightest~~ validity at all

Yours &c,

Gentlemen: I am sorry you are troubled by the persistent attentions of Mr. Blair. I know it must be unpleasant but it cannot be avoided. No damage can accrue to you from it beyond the trouble of answering his letters. Should he bring suit, which I trust he may, you will have to be a nominal party only, for another party will at once interplead and relieve you of both liability and trouble. The suit, at best, involves only one-half the royalty and you will not be harmed a dollar. The contract as you will see, was intended "to grant time and opportunity" to the Judge, to pay certain debts, yet exactly one month from the date of its execution he brought Mr. Blair brought suit upon the very contract and only indebtedness, while <sup>my husband</sup> he was in the very midst of the work agreed upon. Since that time <sup>Blair</sup> he has been threatening every newspaper and Magazine for which the Judge wrote just as he has threatened you. I have taken the best of legal advice - out side of my husband - and all assure me of these facts:

- 1 - That the contract was voided as to me at least.
- 2 - That Blair's only remedy if the contract is valid, is by injunction against my husband.
- 3 - That ~~he~~ Blair could at best only hold a publisher responsible for such portion of the proceeds as he was about to pay over to my husband.

In addition to this you will learn in due time that other and much efficient measures have been taken to protect you from loss.

Will you kindly keep an eye out for any interference he may attempt with the sale of the books? He dare not attempt to secure an injunction and <sup>against the Judge</sup> and I do not think he has any idea of bringing suit against you, any more than against the Churchman, the Examiner and Chronicle, the Inter-Ocean, <sup>the Christian at work</sup> and other parties whom he has threatened in the same way. If he does you need not give yourself any trouble. There is no chance only he can bring a judgment against him for costs and damages, <sup>at least</sup> ~~and as another will attend to the legal work, you will only have to take judgment against his books.~~ perhaps a good deal more.

Fords, Howard & Hulbert are now printing a book of the Judge's note under the contract he assigns as a main reason for troubling you, <sup>but</sup> for another party who bought the work from <sup>the Judge</sup> ~~him~~. <sup>plain</sup> He has, I think, no more idea of curing them of suicide but like a blind snake is just biting round to see whom he can secure.