

My dear Doctor:

I have yours as to General Conference, &c, and note what you say. I am fond of my friends and like to fight for them. I am fond of the resultants of the church's work and like a scrimmage now and then for its principles. In short I belong to the church militant and believe in the church triumphant. I am rarely able to fit into its grooves and methods and may be termed a partisan ranger rather than one of the regular soldiery.

I dislike the thought of the Gen. Conf., more and more as the time for decision approaches. There is the question of the Southern work, over which I have had to keep my mouth locked and double-locked for some months, besides my liability to get into a row over some of you gentlemen whom I especially desire to serve. So I think I will stay at home.

As to "Letters to a King", you ought to be able to do better in by them than any one else. The publication ~~at~~ serial form of that sort of work does not hurt its book sale; but rather helps it. My opinion is that you will get a good sale for it in two ways:

1--In cheap cloth, light paper at \$1.25, on the cars and in general book-store sale.

2--Nice paper, better binding with steel plate engraving of author at \$1.75 or \$2.00, as a gift-book, &c. Of your 200,000 readers, a good many will want it as a present for young men just coming of age. These you will most easily hit.

The book will make some stir when it comes out. "Button's Inn", published Sept. 1st, is having a fine sale, quite unexpectedly after so long a silence. "Black Tea" another novel, will be out Nov. 1st.

--not that it is a notable book at all, but it says something and says it in a way to make discussion. I think you had better get out "Letters to a King", about Dec. 1st, not later, so as to catch the holiday trade. It will not be a rushing book but will have a good healthy enduring sale.

I think the sale will be greater at the start than you suppose as several men are sharpening their knives for it and it will be extensively reviewed. There are now about 60,000 words. I will add to it some 30, or 40,000 more to give it a grip on your subscribers and make it a fair size. I have already had many inquiries for it in book form.

I think, --and in this I speak for Mrs. T.--that the percentage of your option is too high, that is, higher than such a book is likely to justify in connection with the percentages you allow your agents. She will, therefore say, 17 percent and ask you to push it in certain lines for mutual benefit instead of the higher rate.

I can arrange for you to get some excellent steel engravings of myself for a frontispiece of the fine edition which will help its sale and make it more profitable.

As soon as you are ready, we will discuss type, size of paper, etc, and get at the work in earnest, as will be necessary for my lecturing season approaches "when no (literary) man can work".

Sincerely yours,