

FORDS, HOWARD, & HULBERT,  
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My dear Miss Tongée

I send you herein  
a drawing of a design for "Mrs.  
Wall Eastman" which is rather the  
outcome of your letter than of  
your rough drafts. The designer to  
whom I applied here said that  
the present style of adornment for  
books was rather away from the  
"illustrative" toward the "decorative";  
that your notion of not making  
the thing "too giddy" was exactly  
right; that the Gothic arch & the  
liliaceous border were too picture-  
like; that a cover design would  
wear better to the eye if the  
Gothic elements were wrought  
out in some kind of mechanical  
& conventional border, & lettering,  
with a suggestion of the Lily as separate  
ornamentation, &c.

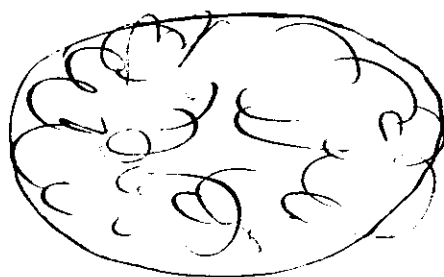
I ordered the thing put in hand  
on that basis, & here is the result.

It will be printed in ink & gold: just in what arrangement I have not yet concluded, but I mark "ink" "gold" on patterns, to give you an idea.

The lily wreath on the side is too stiff & should be changed, any how. My feeling is that it would be richer & more graceful to have a mass of flower buds there with the general shape horizontal, rather than vertical as now; - the general outline smaller, the floral element itself (flower buds) larger than in this - the long stiff stems not showing. Something, as 'twine, like



I think



Now please look the thing over, and let me have your criticisms & suggestions. The lilies would not be in outline, but solid gold, shaded with engraved lines:

If you do not approve, don't hesitate to say so. I am desirous of pleasing you in the matter.

Yours truly,  
J. R. Howard