10280

Mayville, N. Y. October 24th, 1907.

Thursday a.m.

Dear Mr Howard:

Your letter of some two weeks or so ago, was duly received, and I have been waiting to answer it when I had something definite to say about the plates of "Button's Inn", which I am now able to do.

After a good deal of correspondence back and forth, I have finally secured possession of the plates from Little, Brown & Company, for $50. They wanted a good deal more, but I got them by forwarding the copy of the letter you sent me, from them where they offered these plates for $50. They are now in Buff: where Matthews Northrup & Co., are printing an edition of 5000 expecting to have 500 bound for the Christmas trade. They mod. ified their estimates a good deal and I think I am getting th work done as cheaply as O could anywhere.

As to the matter of our requesting F.H.&H to buy the pla at the time when Roberts Bros. went out of business, I think I have solved the problem why it was not done. I have a very di tinct remembrance of the Judge dictating to me at the typewri a letter telling them to accept the offer made, but as a great deal of our private correspondence was left behind when we le Bordeaux, on account of the haste with which we had to vacate the Consulate, I cannot lay my hand on the letter. But at that time, we had as clerk an Englishman, who proved to be one of th greatest rascals known when it comes to doing small things. H had charge of the mailing of letters. The stamps were kept ir the Judge's private office, and were given to him on a writter memorandum from the Vice Consul as to what was wanted for th days mail. For six months he stole the stamps and destroyed the letters, before he was found out. He did not at any time take <u>all</u> the stamps, as the shippers at Bordeaux to New York always went through, but all the invoices to San Francisco fo six months failed to reach the Customs Office. Why he select this particular port for his nefarious schemes, we never coul.

understand. It made a great row, and as there was no explanation only that the Invoices were not mailed, and as they were twice a week prepared for the mail, the Clerk was alone responsible for their not reaching their destination, as it was not possible the postal service should miss all mail for that port from the Consulate. When matters began to be investigated, he left the country between "daylight and dawn" and went to the Maderia Islands. We found in the course of time that he had done a good deal of petty pilfering besides the stamps. I usually mailed the private letters myself, but I suppose this one got into the official package and that is the reason why F.H.& H never received the letter accepting the offer of $50. for the plates of "Button's Inn."

Sincerly yours,