

FORDS, HOWARD, & HULBERT,  
PUBLISHERS,  
No. 27 Park Place.

NEW YORK, Feb 3 1888

My dear Judge,

We are all of a mind, here, as to the sweet simplicity and lovely Sunday School atmosphere suggested by the subordinate title, "A Domestic Story," as descriptive of "Black Ice"; but we think it will do a double injustice to the book, — from a literary & a commercial point of view. In one sense it is of course a domestic story, since it tells of events within a home; but it would have to be justified by argument, & then the defeated objector would say "Well, you are right, but the title's wrong."

Let's call it "A Novel",  
or leave it to be guessed.  
The former is perhaps the better  
thing, since folks might, I  
deem, the name of the author,  
suppose it to be some po-  
litical manifesto of "Danger",  
or "Black Ice: A Novel" will  
attract the novel-reading, &  
they are the only ones who  
will buy the book. What you think?

We send herewith a copy  
of "Patriotic Addresses" with  
our individual & collective  
compliments, & hope it will  
prove complementary to your  
social sensibilities, if not  
complementary to your po-  
litical polemicalities!

Faithfully Yours,  
J. R. K.