

Messrs Roberts Brothers:

Gentlemen: I do not blame you for not wishing to incur any liability or get into any litigation and certainly did not expect you to understand the relation of the parties to the contract which Mr Blair makes such a gross show of going to law upon. I have known "Judge Sawyer" now a good many years, and have never known him to seek ^{to get rid of any honest} ~~to avoid or evade~~ obligations. On the contrary I have seen him pay off ^{with} the earnings of his brain ~~in~~ very large ^{indebt} ~~sums~~ ^{debts} ~~which he might have avoided by going~~ into bankruptcy.

In Mr. Blair's case, when he found himself irrevocably involved he offered, as you will see by the condition of the agreement, ^{to give to certain} ~~to give to certain~~ ^{creditors} among whom was Blair, certain portions of the proceeds of books published under that agreement, making the same to include all books he might publish. You will see that the whole purpose of this prospectus ^{was} upon his work was to get him to discharge ^{his} obligations. It was unnecessary for him to do so but he was anxious to do the best for all. He had already surrendered all he possessed ⁱⁿ in a tremendous effort to protect the creditors of the ^{Conte-} ~~ment~~ ^{ment} as well as his own. Mr. Blair also had a life policy upon his life of nearly the amount of his claim. The Judge's health was at that time very poor and soon became worse. For ^{several} ~~many~~ months he could hardly leave his bed, could not read or write and had a family dependant ^{entirely} on his earnings. ^{Even under} ~~Under~~ these circumstances he began at once ^{to} ~~the~~ work ^{of} paying off these ^{very} debts. Having secured a physician for weekly work which he had to dictate from a bed of suffering, he devoted all the rest of his time, with pitiful pertinacity

to writing a book for this expedition. While thus engaged, and more dead than alive, Blair brought suit upon the very claim that this agreement which he now flourishes, was made to secure indulgence upon. Sued upon the debt he had agreed to defer on condition my husband would give him one half the proceeds of all books he might write, do you understand?

Why did he do it? He had two strings to his bow. My husband he knew was very low, the victim of a nervous prostration, that any sudden excitement or serious strain might at any moment end his life. If he died Mr. Blair would get \$20,000 cash and as he had a lien on all the Judge's works besides would get his entire claim usury and all. Mr. Blair knew this would be the probable result of the suit he brought — whether he fully realized another result, I do not know. I think he will before the matter is over.

Weak as he was my husband turned on his persecutor and showed him that the legal knowledge and ability which had made him foremost at a hostile bar, had not deserted entirely. Mr. Blair found that his contract for

indulgence toward his action just as he will now find that his violation of it will prevent its enforcement. My husband, though a lawyer of repute, has never had occasion to appeal to the law; but I think when thus pressed by a man whom I do not care to speak more freely of, he has a right to use it in his defence, and now that he has required his full powers, I have no fear of the result. Mr. Blair appealed to the law to oppress if not actually to kill: now let him take what the law gives him.

My husband is not as relenting as I. He forgives those who despitefully use him and not only forgives but forgets. I have no doubt that some time he will satisfy even Blair — not indeed what he claims nor what he has falsely sworn it to be — but more than almost any one ^{else} under like circumstances would do. My only hope in ^{to see} ~~see~~ justice performed is that Blair will keep at just such tricks as he has tried to play upon you until my husband's patience is completely worn out.

As to the copyright of Buttrick's of which he claims half, — I acquired it by purchase from Mr. Bushey, employed the Judge to enlarge it for me, contracted with you to publish

and sold ~~the~~ the royalties and the copyrights
to a man whom I had availed for years and
who has never yet heard of Blair's name, so
far as I know.

The Judge would have come on to attend
to the suit last week but finding it was only a
personal notice of Blair's intended for a mere
bluff, thought he could not afford the time as he
is exceedingly busy. He will write to Messrs. John
Haskell Butler, of Stearns & Butler, No 244 Wash-
ington St, who will represent Mr. Skinner in the
matter. I have no doubt he will give you
a bond of indemnity for the one-half the copy-
right royalties which is all Blair's
claim. The other half of course you will
remit with the copyright account to
Mr. Skinner.

I am sorry to have troubled you with
so much full an account of a personal
matter. You will acknowledge that I have not
inflicted much upon you before. I thought your
little fling at the Judge showed that you
needed not only to know more of the
facts but more of a man who has made
the fight he has to relieve misfortune and been
met at every step by a sneaking crowd who
do not stand the decision of the law to which
he brings about appealing. We do not wish

penury in trying to get hold of a dollar
of money coming from Bullen's Inn.

Yours truly

~~W. C. C. C.~~