

Dictated.

Mayville, N.Y.

May 31st 1889.

Proprietors

New York Ledger.

Gentlemen.

I have in hand a novel for which I have long been preparing, which will be altogether new in character and I think very attractive. The idea is simply this:

In a novel of American life, the human characters will be set off and distinguished by a set of horse characters. I do not mean horsey characters, nor will the human characters be what are known as "horsey", though some of them may approach it; but a half-dozen or so notable and distinctly drawn horses--having each his own qualities and character--will be associated with them and will be intimately ~~associated~~ ^{connected} with the ~~crises~~ ^{various} of the story, so as to constitute a distinctive feature of the work.

I have not only been preparing for this for some time, but I have that peculiar knowledge ^{of} and love for a horse that enables me to do the work with ~~peculiar~~ ^{popular} effect. Probably no characters in my works are oftener referred to or with wider approval, than my horses, all of which are distinctive, no one being in any respect the reproduction of ~~the~~ ^{any} other.

The list of the horse-characters I have created and which have become standards, so to speak in our literature, is one of which I must confess, I am especially proud: as instances, let me mention:

"Old and Young Lollard" in "A Fool's Errand".

"Satan" in "Bricks Without Straw".

"Sachem" in "John Eax."

"The Minister's Horse" in "Hot Plowshares."

Churr's trotters in "Figs and Thistles".

The Doctor's Horse in "Black Ice."

All of these I believe demonstrate a peculiar power to make a horse a character in fiction, which few writers possess. This power I propose to use in making ^{this story} ~~this~~ a notable work.

It will be American because the American horse-types are peculiar, and the relation of the horse to American life is distinctive.

I would prefer to dispose only of the serial use as the book use is to me a matter of fixed and certain value, which is altogether different when one has secured his own clientelage and when he has not? *but would make an absolute sale if desired.*

I write to you in regard to this because I always like to know my serial medium before I write a story--the lawyer's habit I suppose of keeping his audience in mind. While I should not radically change the plot, I would very probably use somewhat different types of horses, if it was to appear in the Ledge from what I might employ in other cases.

This would be particularly true in ^{your} ~~that~~ case, because of the peculiarly admirable relation, Mr Robert Bonner has sustained to

this noble animal. Of course I am not especially familiar with all its phases. *living no familiar acquaintance with him.* A brief chat, frequent observation and that public knowledge *impressions* *sent, much less, constitutes my only knowledge* which every horse lover has of his connection with horses, -- *over*

constitutes my only knowledge. It is this knowledge, however, and a profound regard for the sentiment he has manifested in this regard, which leads me to inquire whether you would like to publish this story "under pseudonym". It applies well enough to a "short" but is a question to be settled. It has in this regard which leads me to request you to advise me whether you would like to publish it serially. I may as well say that I have never submitted a manuscript, and never completed a story until its publication was begun. My work is always contracted for in advance and for years have had no difficulty in marketing at satisfactory rates a good deal more than I could do. My work is arranged for months ahead and I find that most of all early work is completed by me. I have never completed a story until its printing had begun. I have never completed a story until its printing had begun. I have never completed a story until its printing had begun.

I suppose I need not say that I do not do sleep-work, and that there will be nothing political in this. If you desire to make me an offer for its serial use, to begin about a year from now, I will, if satisfactory write it for you, though it will require some special preparation to do so. If the proposition does not meet your approval, I can easily find another place for it, elsewhere, and will be all the better for it.

The work will be a virile picture of many phases of popular life, I have never hinted its existence to any one but my own family by whom it is known as my "Horse Story". I have not yet determined the title though several chapters are complete. In case you do not care to make an offer I would be glad if you would return this letter. I am inclined, just now, to "A Son of Abdullah" but am likely to change it, if I find a better one.

Sincerely yours,

Ⓚ

I am well again. That man author who makes
a business for himself of his work to a publisher
with whom he has no special acquaintance ought
to be regarded as a mere salesman who is trying
to work "against" for his own benefit. Every time
you that I am not in the list of "best" but

I have had only a short rest in months for anything
like a long one in my life. I have had a regular
weekly enjoyment of my work and regular
autumnal - I have had a regular enjoyment of my work
and I am always to be found around me in a
and determine what to do. This is all the
more necessary because I work but slowly
through very regularly and persistently never in
years missing an installment.

~~I am well again~~
~~I am well again~~

and good
I am well again