

Marion, Iowa, July 30, 1889.

My Dear Judge:

I am very glad to receive your letter of a recent date. I thank you for the "literary estimate" enclosed. I have read it with great pleasure. I consider it very fine. It would be sufficient of itself to establish one's reputation as a keen literary critic. I have not read any thing so fine for a long time.

As to the "Advance" matter:  
If the editor writes to  
me, I will be able to  
"furnish" him something  
good. Of course my name  
will not be mentioned  
in connection with it.  
That would not be honest.  
No name need appear.  
I could not take <sup>this article</sup> it  
as a foundation and  
write something that  
would be essentially  
mine. My ability to write—  
if I have any and I am  
doubtful on that point—  
does not lie in that

particular line at all.

I would not dare to

"monkey" write the article to any great extent. There will be no objection to using it ~~as~~ in connection with the volume of selections. That volume will appear simply as a compilation. I can use the essential features of it.

As to the title. I was thinking of calling the volume simply "Selections from Bourgeois," or "Selections from the Writings of Bourgeois." Possibly something more

striking would be better:  
My idea was to have  
the volume in shape to  
be used in literature  
classes, but one that will  
also be popular with the  
general public.

I have thought of  
writing to Houghton, Mifflin, & Co.,  
Boston. They are a  
pushing house. What do  
you think of that?

Jensen, McClurg, & Co., ~~Boston~~  
Chicago, is the most  
successful house in the  
West.

Will try to comply  
with your wishes in every

particular. Will write  
you again soon.

Yours very truly,

W. W. Gist

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013