

Gentlemen: I return draft of contract ~~because~~

~~it is not in accordance with previous agreement and stipulations.~~ ^{The effect of the} The ~~ambiguity~~ ^{ambiguity} of the ~~was already agreed upon or may hereafter be agreed upon by the parties~~ ^{of the} ~~instrument~~ ^{instrument} previously ~~inserted~~ ^{inserted} at (A) ~~taken~~ ^{taken} with the rest of the paragraph, is to leave price, style of binding, &c., entirely to your decision. You could publish on brown paper and sell for ten cents under that agreement and she would be without remedy. Of course you can expect no one of common sense to tie their own hands in that fashion, especially ~~do that especially~~ after the disinclination you have ~~already~~ ^{shown} to consider her interests, ~~at all~~ ^{in the matter}. She must control those things on which the little profit she may derive depends.

In order to make this more certain you will, also, ^{please} insert at (B) the words, "the style and retail price to be always ~~determined by our~~ ^{determined by our} mutual agreement."

The assignment of the copyright for which
you have applied did not accompany the
draft. As I stated, this is ^{an} essential pre requis-
ite. In a sense we regret the delay, but we
would better rather wait a year or two, ^{more} than
leave the matter on any part of it at loose
ends. I enclose ^{draft} form for the assignment of
copyright.

Whereas, ~~we~~, the J. B. Hippincott Company of Philadelphia,
State of Pennsylvania, have heretofore applied for a
copyright of a book entitled "With Gauge and Swallow"
which had previously been copyrighted by and was the
sole property of Emma K. Lougee of Mayville, who
was also the editor thereof, and author thereof.

Now, therefore, in consideration of the foregoing
premises and the sum of one dollar to us in hand
paid, we, the said J. B. Hippincott Company
do hereby set over, assign and transfer to the
said Emma K. Lougee, all right title
and interest in and to the said copyright
aforesaid, issued in the name of our
said Company, without any limitation
or restriction whatever.

Witness the seal of ~~our~~ the said com-
pany and the hand of the Secretary thereof
this — day of November A. D.
1889.

I have been through these proofs. Their fragmentary character makes the task of verification too tedious to be undertaken at any time of life. Whatever your proof-reader has queried, that I have determined. I don't see how you are even going to get it together but I suppose ^{think you} you do. However, I confidently look to see the very dammedest bundle made of it that is possible to conceive. Plate-patching is risky business anyway - how and when the patching throws St Andrews shirt into the shulle what may not one expect

in the line of confusion.

And when you call the scraps to-
gether with fife and drum and the
changes made on page 251 are
deftly slipped in on pag 132, how
am I to know where to look for
them.

Candidly, I can't see any way
to correct or verify these galley-proofs
you have sent me and if the page
proofs to be made up from them
drive me from her throne
and ensign me to a washhouse

you will be clearly responsible and if my wife does not bring an action for damages against you she will clearly fail in that ability to make a husband ~~man~~ of more value to his family when disabled than he has ever been in health, which so many modern ~~and~~ wives display.

She would recover, too! There is no doubt about that. Think of one of these gallery-slips held up before a jury and one eloquent advocate, saying "Gentle men of the jury, look at that

and say if you can that the
defendants are not guilty of
wrecking the reason of my
weeping clients' sole support in
life. Look upon her false hair!
Gaze into his ravenous eye and
then hesitate, if you can to give a
verdict in her favor.

It should be a big verdict
too. One sounding in damages
to a tune that will not only teach
these defendants, but all similarly
inclined evil disposed persons,

not to imperil the health and
safety of innocent citizens dwelling
in the favor of God and the State,
by such demonic devices.

You have heard, gentlemen, of
the Medusa's head one glance in =
to whose Gorgon eyes freeze the
stoutest-hearted beholder into stone.
What would you think of the man
who scattered Medusa heads
along the highway? Yet this
gentlemen — this seemingly in =

novent sheet of paper — (and here he
would flourish one of your galleys =
proofs under the flaming noses of
the horrified jury = bumpers) — then
are a thousand times worse, for
no one would be on guard a-
gainst their malign influences.
te te, te!"

That, gentlemen, is the way
some Philadelphia lawyer will
address a jury while I am ~~sitting~~
sitting on an ice-~~cola~~, clothed
in a straight-jacket with a

big office on my head trying
to recover the feeble wits you have
driven away by this damnable
device. I acquit you of specific
malice, but the ^{evidently dangerous} general character
of the act will prevent its being
regarded as innocent ^{and} the result
from being adjudged damnum
absque injuria.

Now, having been duly
warned you can go on at your
own risk. If you can get there

pieces together all right. if you can't,
~~that~~ I can't help you; and that is
all there is to be said about it.

Yours ^{in despair}
~~devotedly~~

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY, NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY