

FORDS, HOWARD, & HULBERT,
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My dear Mr. Justice

Rec'd I send you a formal letter of contract, which is in accordance with our former correspondence. I do not in it mention what or where it is to be paid off & reluctantly of half the royalty, but mention the same only, thinking that perhaps your friend Blair may at some time make inquiries into your publication of A.W.T.'s works, and utilize such a payment of an acknowledgment of the Judge's, to show his interest in the publication.

Thank you for the considerate remembrance of the matter. There have been times when the Aunt would have been worth a good deal more than its value to us; but we have not lost much sleep over it, feel sure that somehow & some time it would get straight.

Today I send back the balance of the copy - The

book grows strongly in interest
toward the end - that is, if I
have seen the end, Chap XLV.
I don't think it is cleared up
very lucidly; probably the omission
of Ch XLIV (wh. I find in the
only one I have) leaves out the key
stone of the fabric; for altho' I
can readily guess at the whys
& wherefores, there is a great
gulf between Kishu on his
office floor, at enmity with
all the world so far as any
outward action has shown - &
Kishu hand-in-glove with Mr.
Derwood at Old Point Comfort.

K's letters to Underwood & Lamp.
are probably in that Chapter.
In (I think) Ch. 42 Lillian
hands her father "Underwood's
note" - of wh. no mention has
been made before; & in 43 (or
the next to that "boarding") the
existence & contents of the
note are told. The latter sh^d
precede the former.

There is one place where
I have indicated (in Underwood's

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talk to Kiehn) some matter that
might advantageously be omitted.
Not that it is objectionable or
unintelligible, but simply to show
how I would shatter up all
the sermonizing. People read
books aloud a good deal these
days, and the Judge, when he
gets to philosophical ratiocina-
tion, Latinizes his style to a re-
markable degree - makes it hard
to read. A digest of every one
of the excellent speeches made
(of the various characters (all
of which, however, are ⁱⁿ the
same style) would immensely
help the book. It is true, "Robert
Elsmore" was lumbered up with
a good deal of philosophizing
but it was by just that much
hindered. Baggage is a good
thing, but for armies and

stones its multiplied riches be-
come impedimenta. With fewer
words to carry, the story's
ideas would have lot's more
of go!

In the last chapter I
don't exactly like the friendly but
curious pulling away of the veil
from Eastman's new found love
(if that is the upshot of the
affair; it is not definitely sta-
ted). Lillian, Mrs. Weston, Au-
derwood, all seem to have an
understanding about it, while
poor Eastman, whose fresh heart-
filling has happened without
hint to the reader, so that it
comes as a kind of unpleasant
surprise & not in sympathy with
a previously felt tendency, —
poor Eastman, whose manly up-
rightness & peculiarly attractive
self-poise, & ability to speak
for himself, has been a notable
feature of the book — is re-
lated to the rear, a kind of
puppet worked by strings pulled
by two women & a friendly invalid.

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It isn't fair to the fine character already created. Eastman should be master of his own fate, even when borne as currents he cannot control - just as he was in the Episode with Lillian. Don't let him peter out.

Perhaps the man; chap. too fine, as some further knowledge of Mrs. Weston's character & attractions: they have been rather negative thus far. "not bad" was the outcome of the accusations against her. But why should Eastman love her?

About names. Did the Judge pick up a Japanese directory for "Kishu"? What does it mean? Mewee? Milton? What? It conveys no idea to the reader but one of eccentricity for its own sake. I wish he could find something either ~~less~~ ^{not} fantastic or, if so, then suggestive "God's anointed Phil" is

a pretty long stude in the sug-
gestive direction; but it seems too
absolutely constructed, without any
semblance of fact. When Thacker-
ey speaks of "Lady Violet de Bas",
he makes an ingenious possi-
bility for the impossible name
of "Blue Stocking"; even Dickens's
"Mrs Leo Hunter" has an element
of probability in it: but "Edith
Unmounted Phoe", even from the
Britannical mother with the
"hard" that England voice, is an
anachronism. I think "Godloan
Phoe" would be as much to
the purpose & not so grotesquely
impossible; but ~~the~~ Edith name
is out of place in any way since
Cromwell's time - or nearly so.

I think, too, the picture of
that good man's diabolical
hatred of God's enemies is too sharp
drawn to be effective. Such
men don't live now - or at least
don't talk. His anticipation of
jeering at the damned hereafter
as a part of Heaven's joy is not
of this age, and is so violent a
caricature that it will not touch

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Any body's conscience is con-
scious of. That good bigot
has plenty of fellows today, but
they are not named "Eods or its
Phue" nor do they dare to phrase
such accusations of Eod's
fatherhood in plain words. Why
not make the Character a
typical one of many "unesquid
who do live today, & preach
the "Comfortable doctrine of
damnation"?

That reminds me of a
quotation from one of Shurlog's
sermons wh. I will include.
It might be put into the mouth
of Phue & then in a footnote
credited to its original source
that is bad enough; but the idea
of the saved ones "fleeing" at the
demonic picture, is pure devil,
& not even human badness
can compass it set up as
him!

There! I guess I have
meandered & maundered enough
about it all. The suggestions
are respectfully submitted &
their reception will be sweetly
submitted to!

Heartly regards to the Judge.
This is a strong book and
full of meat for thought. If he
will only condense here &
there - make it stimulating
rather than satiating - make
people think for themselves,
instead of telling them all
about it & it must take hold,
I should say.

Faithfully
Yours

A. Howard