

FORDS, HOWARD, & HULBERT,  
PUBLISHERS,  
No. 80, Lafayette Place.

Dictated.

NEW YORK, Sept. 10', 1889

Dear Mrs. Fourgee: -

I have this morning yours of the 8' and am glad you are getting at the manuscript.

I have not the Judge's genius at titles, and therefore do not feel altogether competent to suggest a substitute for "The Church of the Golden Lilies." At the same time, that title, while it is "effective and striking" to one who has read the book, means nothing to the casual picker-up of the volume, except, possibly, a "religious novel"-- a commodity with which the public has been pretty well surfeited recently. The clientage of "The Advance" is small and not widely spread, so that the book will have to make its own fame, pretty much. It seems to me that a title somewhat more terse, curt, and strong would better suit both the book and the author's well known characteristics. The name of his hero is peculiar; the position assumed by him is novel: why not combine this into a title which shall at once give a good handle to grip it by, together with a

hint of the tendency of the book? "Murvale Eastman's  
Christian Socialist."--we believe that would be far  
more interesting, and piquing to curiosity, and strongly  
dignified, than "The Church of the Golden Lilies." Of  
course it is a "religious novel," in the best sense;  
but it should not so be put forth. It presents itself  
to me as a fine, fresh, strong study of human nature la-  
boring under the disadvantages of a selfish social sys-  
tem, and striving to break out; while the book, with  
its powerful currents of interest, tends to open a way  
by the influence and effluence of the Christ-Spirit.  
It is upon the new ground of to-day, which, instead of  
ecclesiasticising. secular events, tends to imbue them  
with the genuine gospel of Jesus, the Nazarene. I  
like it; and shall push it with good will; but I plead  
for condensation of the discussions [since the whole  
course of the story is a discussion], and for a strong-  
er title.

I am grieved to hear your account of the Judge's  
present condition, and shall very gladly do all I can  
to ease his work and worry. Let us hope that the  
coming of the bracing winter weather will tone him up

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again.

With heartiest remembrances to him and your-  
self, I remain

Faithfully Yours,

J. R. Howard

He is so positive as to  
what he wants & doesn't want,  
that I hesitate to offer one  
way of helping him; but I will,  
& he can do as he likes. If  
he will in any thing, the man  
mark passages: Cut  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; Cut  $\frac{1}{3}$ ;  
Cut  $\frac{2}{3}$ ; &c. I will do what I  
can to save him the work of  
doing the cutting. Perhaps it would  
be easier done by one who, while  
in sympathy with him & his  
aims, would not, as the author  
would, regard every phrase &  
word as a tone to shade necessary

to bring out the exact idea intended. I think his tendency is to over-elaboration of detail in argument; it is doubtless more complete, & if any one such passage stood alone would be the proper way; but in a story people simply will not read the "long talks". His ideas will be better, taken in smaller doses, rather than "skipped"!

RM