

Dear Sir:

A man who lives by his pen's point, if he would do anything like justice to himself on those who publish his work, must consider carefully its tenderness and bring it forward under as favorable conditions as possible. For many years it has been my habit to begin some sort of serial work, ^{nearly} ~~about~~ contemporaneously with the publication of ^{of every new} ~~of every~~ volume, in order that each may help somewhat the other. Owing to ^{having undertaken} ~~my~~ ^{taking up} "The Story of a Thousand," which will have no serial phase,

I did not begin anything on the
appearance of "Out of the Church Sea" in
September.

I have in mind ^{to begin}
As a consequence, I expect to begin
about the first of the year,
~~in January or February~~, either in some

~~magazine or as a "Special" work,~~ a
series of articles under the title of
"Confessions of an Outside Christian"

I have been collecting the material of which
they will be composed, as is my habit for
some years. They will ^{make} consist of ~~about 17~~ ^{about 12 or 15} numbers
of ~~such~~ ^{reasonable} length as may be decided and I
shall desire to arrange for publication in
book form as well.

The "Confessions", ^{will be} ~~are~~ a simple, candid, truth-
ful narrative of the mental processes of one who
joins an "orthodox" church in his youth, remains
a member of it ~~to~~ till middle life, and is
still such, though ~~finally~~ gradually coming
to note the unchristianity of modern
Christianity, yet still hoping that the
forces of "the Church" may be turned earth-
ward instead of wasting themselves in
skyward ~~expressions~~ aspirations.

Such an one tells his story in the
first person singular, not disclosing
his ~~own~~ name, ~~because~~ for the reason

given at the outset that he does not
wish to ^{be} have his comfort disturbed
at his time of life,
by religious controversy or being down
upon himself the odium of being an
"apostate" from those with whom he
has so long walked in mutual
esteem, if not in absolute harmony.

like in character.

There ^{will be} nothing in them to offend
the "orthodox" believer. It is, ^{in fact,} a simple

narrative of my own mental and moral
processes - and ^{their general trend may in part} I ~~am~~ ^{am} still a Methodist
be estimated from the tendency rather than the
~~as far as~~ ^{as far as} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~express~~ ^{express} words of "Moral Eschatology" which you may
~~really~~ ^{really} have no doubt ~~it~~ ^{they} will raise quite

very wide attention, all the more, I
think if they were published anonymously
and the reason given, which is entirely
a true one that the writer does not
care to subject himself to unkind
versions or comment of them. At the
same time you could state that they
were written by one well-known
throughout all the country and are

honestly done. I suppose ~~I may assume~~ ^{it may be assumed}
~~that I am a fair judge of what is popular~~
~~and will not be questioned that I~~
~~will do the work.~~

I had intended to propose this series to the
editor of another magazine who is ^{just now} in search
of ^{somewhat} attractive and ^{striking} specialties where I
happened to think of the "Arena" and was at
once impressed with the fitness of this me-
dium. No one knows of the matter except my wife and
I should want you to take out the
copyright and assign it to a third party so
that it could not well be traced to
me.

The manuscript ^{will be} ~~would be~~ ^{a mass of retulac} forthcoming
each month. It is yet ~~in course~~ ^{rather than}

a crystallized form
complete. I may say that this is my uni-
versal practice: I never begin the preparation
of a manuscript until the ^{time} ~~form~~ and place of
publication have ~~which it is to appear,~~ been determined. I
have never had a dozen chapters of a novel
written before the printer ^{took it in hand,} ~~began his work,~~
except once; and that was the least ~~and~~
popular of ^{all} ~~the~~ my works. I have never sub-
mitted a manuscript for serial work, because
I never have had more than an initial
chapter complete when the ~~work~~ publication
began, even though, as in the case
of ^{the} ~~Out of the~~ "Sunset Sea" I had been
engaged on it ~~for~~ ~~years~~ for years.

the "Confessions"

I wish ~~to include these articles~~ ^{to} ~~this work~~
to intermit with "The Story of a Thousand",
which will go to press probably in May,
and "In the Dragon's Mouth" which will
begin to run ^{some time during the next} ~~in the fall~~ ~~be-~~
turn. By leaving a variety of work
regularly in hand
I economize my time and avoid
weariness.

~~For the~~
~~the "second use of the old the Confessions of an Outside Christian" and~~
~~should require \$200.~~ If you would
like to arrange for these "Confessions"
please let me know at us

early a day as ~~you~~ may be, in
order that I may not be delayed
in ~~arranging~~ placing the work elsewhere.

I must ask you to keep the matter
~~a~~ an entire secret, as I both do
not desire to be troubled with arguing
or defending what I have to say, and
also, because I regard their impenetrable
anonymity as a matter of ~~some~~ ^{often}
actual value; and, while I ~~occasionally~~
~~times~~ write because I cannot help
it, when it comes to publishing my work it is
a matter of business, and I stand ~~for a day~~
~~only~~ ~~on a democratic~~

"first last and all the time," on a Democratic
Platform — "for revenue only" — and with
nothing done that will tend even re-
sults to "reduce the gold reserve," by making
~~demands~~

Very respectfully,

Abigail N. Bourgie

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