

My dear Sir:

I leave yours of the
— first.

I do not think the part
you allude to can well be cut
out without impairing the
atmosphere which is necessary
to give the proper tone. You know
I am a realist, in a much broader
sense than those who turn the
name, and my realists con-
fess me to represent men as
talking as I find that they really
do — not wholly about good
etc but about matters of act.

nal interest to them. In this
case, I have used a matter
of universal interest, the difference
between the East and the West,
which is a matter of constant
discussion on every European
mental train, to introduce to the
reader an actual live and
story. Take that out and you
have only the romantic narra-
tor as a listener to a mere
one-sided story. This discussion, as
it seems to you, is merely a means
of self-introduction to the Professor,

the lawyer from Denver, the Professor's
wife, and a re-introduction of
the married college-student. These
give life and naturalness to what
would otherwise be a mere novel-
logic — a frequent thing in literature,
especially short stories, but very un-
pleasant in real life.

I could not allow you to cut
it; but if you will send me the
proof, indicating such passages as
you think might be eliminated
with advantage, I will do what I
can to meet your wishes, ~~always~~ ~~pre-~~
~~paring~~ ~~it~~

I do not quite understand your allusion to others of the series; you say, "I do not wish to stand committed to the use of any other of the series unless they are entirely satisfied with them, &c."

There must have been something in my letter that gave an unintended impression. I had no idea that you were to be "committed" to anything by acceptance of this. I merely said, or intended to say, that I meant to have the Scotsman, the Professor, the Denver lawyer, ~~and~~ the Narrator of this, tell each of them, a story of Crime and Con-

crimes, or of intended but un-
accomplished crimes. These I am
going to write into a book, and
I sincerely expect that you might
offer for them if you chose. They
will be entirely distinct short stories,
connected only by the fact that
the authors are the same. I had
no idea that ^{acceptance of} this "commitment" you
to anything more. I merely supposed
that if you wanted the others you would
say so.

Yours truly
Abraham W. Meyer