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Essexdale, Catt. Co., N.Y., Aug. 2, 1894.

Hon. Allison W. Younger,

Mayville, N.Y.

Honored Sir,

I have finished reading "Figs and Thistles" for the fourth time, and lay down the book conscious that the last reading has awakened in me a better appreciation for the thought contained within its lines.

It seems to me that the American young man must strive to call the author of such an elevating book

book blessed, — especially those of us, who like Markham Cherr are in humble circumstances, and have the battle of life before us.

Every time I lay down this book I seem to stand on a firmer foundation, with a brighter future, and my ambition is increased for maintaining a pure, upright character, at whatever cost.

Such books help a young man like myself, whose virtues must be made by their own efforts in keeping our hopes

from bludging, and in helping us to shun temptations. I have thought of the livings of such an author helps us, how much more must his personal presence be to those who are so fortunate as to come in contact with him.

In my work as editor of our Freeville Normal School paper I have attempted to acquire interest in your works, and have circulated my own copy of "Kies and Thistles" among the young men. I secured an article for our paper reviewing some of your works.

from my ⁴ brother, Presi-
dent of the Ripley, Chaut. Co.,
School, also a great
admiration of yourself.
This article was very
hastily prepared, and
I am not satisfied
with it. I shall have a
more careful one writ-
ten, I send you the ar-
ticle with this.

I have read with
care but three of your
works; "Kigs and Thistles",
"A Fool's Errand," and
"Bricks without Straws"

I am certain that
literary men must
receive many letters
like this, and I feel
that I should humbly

ask pardon for thus
taking your time, But
I only wish to thank
you for the help I
have received from
"Figs and Thistles" - which
I believe to ~~be~~ be the
greatest American
novel. I wish it might
be circulated more
widely among young
men.

Your warm admirer,
Edgar C. Markham.