Brooklyn. N. Y.
October 5. 1894.

Hon. A. W. Tourgee.
Mayville. N. Y.

Dear Sir:

About six months ago, eight young men, of whom I am one, banded themselves together for literary purposes, and called themselves the "Octagon Club". We made literature of the day our study and each member has been called upon to

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read some interesting portion of a work of fiction, as, for instance, the duel in Cranford's "Saracinesca", which was read about a month ago.

At the meeting last night, it was my turn, and I read "Mr. Jackson's" story of his wanderings in your superb "Burton's Inn". It caused a greater sensation than anything yet read, the members agreeing on the beautiful and awe-inspiring scene in the Temples where "Jackson" is chosen by the Prophet. Indeed, so strong an impression did the character and peculiarities of "Mr. Jackson" make on the members, that many of them are inclined to the belief that he is not a creature of the imagination, but a figure drawn from life. And, indeed, I am inclined to that belief, being influenced by the detail used to portray his appearance, his manners, and even his speech, as is shown in his peculiar pronunciation of the words "Ma" + "Pa", an eccentricity

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also shared by "Dotty."

As a proof that the members are charmed with your work, the descriptive prologue to "Button's Inn," the most beautiful word picture it has been my fortune to read, has been "ordered up" for the next meeting, in place of Doyle's powerful description of the battle of Waterloo in the "Great Shadow."

If you would favor me with a few lines relative to "Abner Jackson" or "Jack Button," they would be of great interest to our little Club at the next meeting on the 11th inst. The copy of "Button's Inn"

in my possession is "Autograph Copy No. 106", which I would not now part for five times its original cost.

If you could oblige me in regard to "Mr. Jackson", without inconvenience to yourself, I will be very grateful.

Thanking you in advance, I have the honor to remain, Sir,

Very respectfully,
Ashley Trimble Cole

246 St. Marks Avenue.

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