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Letter from Houghton, Mifflin & Co. to Charles H. Clark, September 21, 1887

Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

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Boston, Sept. 21st 88 7

Chas. H. Clark, Esq.,
Hartford, Conn.

Dear Sir;-

Referring to the list of selections from authors whose works we publish, which you left with us yesterday, we would now say,

1. That Mr. Aldrich adds his consent to ours to your use of the account of the "Old Sojers," from the Story of a Bad Boy, and the other story, The friend of my Youth.

2. That we are willing that you should use Mrs. Stowe's account of the Parson's Horse Race, Trowbridge's Darius Green, and John Hay's Little Breeches, if the authors shall also add their consent.

3. That you are quite at liberty to use Mr. Fields's The Owl Critic, and the Alarmed Skipper.

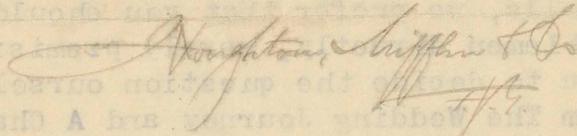
4. That in the cases of Mr. Warner and Mr. Howells, we prefer that you should consult those gentlemen directly, merely premising that if we were to decide the question ourselves, 40 pages from The Wedding Journey and A Chance Acquaintance and 40 or 50 pages of Mr. Warner, would seem to us a very liberal allowance, but if the authors are willing that you should use that quantity, we shall make no objections, so far as we are concerned.

5. There remain to be considered the extracts from Lowell's Bigelow Papers amounting to 16 or 17 pages of the Diamond edition of Lowell's Poems, Dr. Holmes's "Asylum for Decayed Punsters," and

One-Hoss Shay, Bret Harte's Jersey Centennarian, A Sleeping Car Experience, The Heathen Chinees, and Society of the Stanislaus. All this matter is absolutely controlled by us, and for this control we are paying large sums of money. It has a positive value, therefore, to us, and we find it more and more necessary for us not to part with, or share its use, unless we receive a pecuniary consideration. For the selections specified, we think that Mr. Clemens or Messrs. Webster & Co. should pay us the sum of \$100. Even at that rate, we think that 17 pages of the Bigelow Papers a pretty considerable slice to take, but we will not insist on any reduction, although we should prefer to have the selections not exceed 12 or 13 pages.

If this proposition should be acceptable, we shall wish it to be distinctly stated in the preface, or such other place in the book as may be practicable, that the selections from all of the authors named above are used by permission of, and by arrangement with their publishers, Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. We remain, with kind regards,

Very truly yours,



WATKINSON