To Boston Bros.
Mayfair
Nov 1.

Dear Sirs,

My agent having in vain enquired to treat with you for "The Cloister" has gone elsewhere.

As I shall not receive a dollar if you print on the Pub.
And as in birth there is hardly room for two in it during a civil war. I think your forbearance under all circumstances and, in connexion, as you wished to have a new serial tale by me, will you now that I am free from all engagements and can select my theme and treatment to suit the mode I publicate, make me an offer, as liberal as you like; for I am getting soon at the contract below my popular in the State.

I am... Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
Char. Reade.
Nov. 1/62.
CHARLES READE, A. L. S., 1 November [1861, to Harper and Brothers, Publishers].

6 Barton Row.
Mayfair.
Nov 1.

Dear Sirs,

My agent having in vain endeavored to treat with you for "The Cloister" has gone elsewhere.

As I shall not receive a dollar if you print on the Pubs. [p. 2] and as in truth there is hardly room for two in it during a civil war. I solicit your forbearance under all circumstances. And, in connexion, as you wished to have a new serial tale by me, will you now that I am free from all engagements and can select [p. 3] my theme and treatment to suit the mode of publication, make me an offer; as liberal a one as you like: for I am getting sour at the contrast between my popularity in the States, and the remuneration.

I am
dear Sirs
Yrs faithfully
Charles Reade

ALS, 3 pages. Double sheet, 18.9 x 11.4 cm. Blind stamped in oval at top: Garrick | Club.
Provenance: In a Maggs folder, undated.
Unpublished.

2. Reade's bibliography is in an advanced state of confusion, but some matters seem fairly clear. The Cloister and the Heart was published by Trübner in London, October 1861. Dated 1861 is the New York edition, under the auspices of Rudd & Carleton (which I assume to be a piracy, in the light of the present letter). By this time Harper was Reade's regular American publisher (though Harper did not publish the Cloister until 1893), having issued Love Me Little, Love Me Long and A Good Fight and Other Tales in 1859—with Very Hard Cash to come in 1864. Reade and Ticknor and Fields had ended a

Transcription from:
tempestuous relationship after that firm had published Christie Johnson (1855), Clouds and Sunshine (1855), Propria Quae Maribus (1855), The Box Tunnel (1857), Peg Woffington (1858), and White Lies (1858). On most of the points raised in the present letter it is necessary to consult Wayne Burns, Charles Reade: A Study in Victorian Authorship (New York, 1961).

3. The request for "a new serial tale" must be associated with Very Hard Cash, which ran in Harper's Weekly, March-December 1863.

From page 89 of Kendall, 1970
To Harper Brothers

6 Barton Row
Mayfair.
Nov. 1 (186-)

Dear Sirs,

My agent having in vain endeavored to treat with you for "The Cloister" has gone elsewhere.

As I shall not receive a dollar if you print on the Pubs, and as in truth there is hardly room for two in it during a Civil War, I solicit your forbearance under all circumstances. And, in connexion, as you wished to have a new serial tale by me, will you now that I am free from all engagements and can select my theme and treatment to suit the mode of publication, make me an offer: as liberal a one as you like: for I am getting sour at the contrast between my popularity in the states, and the remuneration.

I am

Dear Sir

Yours Faithfully

Charles Reade