

6 Boston Bro.
Mayfair.
Nov 1.

Dear Sirs,

My agent
having in vain en-
deavored to treat
with you for "The
Crest" has gone else-
where.

As I shall not receive
a dollar if you
print on the Pub.

And as in truth there
is hardly room for
two in it during a
civil war. I must
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 some at the
contrast between my
popularity in the States,
and the remuneration.

I am
Dear Sir
Yrs faithfully
Charles Reade

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.

Laid paper. Watermark: JOHNSON [portion] | 1861.

Provenance: In a Maggs folder, undated.

Unpublished.

Notes: 1. Reade's agent was Kinahan Cornwallis of the *New York Herald* (see Malcolm Elwin, *Charles Reade: A Biography*, London, 1931, p. 157).

2. Reade's bibliography is in an advanced state of confusion, but some matters seem fairly clear. *The Cloister and the Hearth* 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

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.

To Harper Brothers

6 Barton Row
Mayfair.
Nov. 1 (1862)

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