

Chicago, July 25th 1842.

My dear Brand,

I have just finished reading "The 13th District" and retired to my own room to hold the tears that would come swelling to my eyes. I have been greatly touched and moved all through and have actually neglected my work so absorbed was I in the story. Yours is a fine achievement. You have stood the greatest test a novelist has to stand and come off victor, for you have made your readers so love and follow certain characters that they grieve to part from them - Jim Rankin, hearty, early-headed, honest, frank Jim Rankin is as fine that the fellow who can part with him without a pang must be well-nigh heartless. One wonders long after the book ends how Emily will work out her salvation. Garwood, selfish and weak as he is, I pity from the bottom of my heart even while I despise him. The conditions of life coupled with his vanity took him down and his fall was inevitable.

Forgive me, but I can talk about nothing but the book. There is more I'll in some more good pictures like little "Free" Percy eternally tapping about, Dede, the expatriate, old Mrs. Garwoods tender figure. Give us some more touches like Emily, remembering the evening papers out in the rain even in the midst of the noise of her clock and the public hall think as I do now.

Sincerely Yours
Franklin D. Drake.

Don't be frightened by this letter as I seldom write by hand and you would have another several like this.