

familiar  
of certain types of character. The story  
is simple and though sufficiently in-  
teresting, is purely domestic. It  
is mainly a character ~~and~~ study, and  
character will be its prominent feature.  
Of course it will be far more generally  
popular than "Idolatry", which is purely  
ideal, or than "Peregrine", of which the  
hero is merely the incarnation of a  
tendency; though whether its ultimate  
fate will be superior to theirs — I  
shall leave an open question. The  
book will be brought out serially,  
beginning next March, under the  
auspices of Strahan. If you wish  
to put it into an American serial  
of good standing, such as the "Atlantic",  
I have no objection, provided they  
furnish decent compensation. I am  
paid here a guinea per page of 500 words.  
Of course, arrangements for advance

5,000<sup>+</sup>

my

my address for the future is —

Sion House, Belmont, Twickenham  
Surrey.

Dec 29<sup>th</sup> 1874

Dear Mr. Osgood

Your letters, enclosing excerpts  
from reviews, and a bill of exchange  
for £ 97. have been received. I  
am sorry that "Idolatry" has been  
criticized in so childish a manner by  
the American papers. The Editors ap-  
pear to leave this branch of work  
to hysterical young ladies or to young  
gentlemen fresh from the high-school.  
The eulogiums <sup>are</sup> of no more value than  
the hostile estimates. I cannot see  
that the book has failed in saying  
what I intended it should say, though  
I anticipated a somewhat more intelligent  
reception. However, it is right I should  
bear the penalty of having expected too  
much; and since it is undoubtedly

true that novel-critics are unaccustomed to having to deal with a work in which any conscientious thought is embodied, one should not be surprised at their being thrown into confusion by so unwonted an apparition. But critics such as these do not represent the Public, in which I still have confidence; and I permit myself to hope that "Hobbit" will meet with better acknowledgment some years hence. Its prevailing fault, though patent enough, has not been touched as yet by any reviewer. It is a fundamental fault in the book considered as a novel, and was of course manifest to me from the first conception. But the book is not a novel, nor even a Romance, so much as an allegory or myth. In it

imagination is applied to the concrete as well as to the spiritual - a new world is created as a stage for the allegorical characters. "Imagination applied to the concrete" is of course nothing more than invention - a lower form of imagination, but essential to my then plan. In a novel, there should be no invention of this kind, and the imagination should be exercised solely with regard to the psychologic ~~and~~ development and analysis.

I wrote it as one chapter in a series of books which I have marked out in my mind, none of which will bear much resemblance to ~~the~~ another. I need say no more at present on this head, except that the next one will be a realistic picture of American life and a study

Sheets &c. would then have to be entered into.

You mention a fear that the rapid succession of my lucubrations may endanger their reception. It appears to me however that this danger is only a real one when the writings have actually been too rapidly produced. In my case this is very far from being the fact. I am a very slow and laborious writer, and nothing I write goes into print until it has been five or six times rewritten. Success cannot be dependent upon so purely superficial a matter as you mention; if the things are carefully and conscientiously done, he would be an uncomfortable reader indeed who demanded anything more. Whatever be the blemishes of my work, that of carelessness never can be laid to my charge. - The short stories, as you are perhaps aware, were mostly

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written before I left America; but will be entirely re-written for this collected edition. The Saxon Studies, again, were composed during my sojourn in Saxony, and are therefore the gradual growth of years. I have put the whole business of bringing them out in Mr. Strahan's hands, and it was only because he intimated to me his intention of publishing them all during the year, that I wrote to you on the subject, supposing you would wish to be "simultaneous" with the English appearance. But I am far from insisting on anything of the sort.

You say you cannot give more than \$500. for "Saxon Studies," and I presume you mean currency. You know best what are your possibilities in the case, and I certainly have no intention of disputing the point, or offering them <sup>the "Studies"</sup> elsewhere; for it is my desire that all my books should appear under your auspices, so long as you find that arrangement beneficial. I named my price from the basis of that given by Strahan — £250.

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in all, with half share in the further proceeds; and this with the more confidence, because I had supposed, from the high-price of English books, that the American sales would be much larger.

As to the new novel, I shall leave it to you to take on such terms as you may think proper, assured that you will deal fairly by it. And so with regard to the short stories.

About the title of the Saxon book, I don't care what it is, and for aught I know your "philological" objection may be well founded. In England it has become widely known under its present name through the pages of the "Contemporary" and will probably retain it, in the collected form. The novel I have not yet named.

If you conclude to bring out the books simultaneously with Strahan, you might salve your conscience with a preface, mentioning where they were written, and on that plea entreating the patience of the public. But what terrible fellows these Americans must be!

Hoping to hear soon from you, I remain,  
my dear Mrs. Osford, cordially Yours

Julian Hawthorne

Strahan's address is 12 Paternoster Row E.C.