

3.00 net

Es

Cincinnati Ohio May 5th 1880.

Messrs Osgood, Hapgood & Co. Boston:—

Respected Gentlemen:—

Having been referred to you as prominent and pushing book publishers, I concluded to apply to you first for terms. Yesterday (being my twenty-first birthday) I completed a book which is my first production. The next step is to procure a good publisher. I am aware of the fact most authors see great brilliancy of wit, imaginary talent, and merit in their own productions discernable to no other eyes save their own; however I trust you will not think me egotistical in thinking; even going so far as to assure you my production is extremely interesting, and of no common order, and ranks far above — in actual merit — ordinary works of good authors. — This assertion should not be from me, yet I am a most severe critic of my own work. Although young in years, I see ordinary productions which necessarily fall below the mediocre — are to the author but time lost.

Every two or three seasons, as you know in your extensive experience, some new book appears on the market, creating quite a furor of excitement — consequently, the result is, the work takes well. — has extensive sale; the remuneration thereby to both publisher and author is satisfactory. While a foundation is laid — for the sale of many editions, and a future demand for other works from the same pen.

A taking title, something different from the ordinary is an essential element. — a strange title piques the curiosity, awakens interest, advertises, and, in fact, quite sells the book. — with judicious advertising.

If the title is good, and the story really meritorious, a hasty glance over its pages ensures its sale. I can safely claim both of the above for my work. It is intensely thrilling and interesting, with a dash of pathos

here and there, that could not fail to touch the heart.
The plot is beautiful and intricate, while the ending is
happy and — Startling — wholly novel and unlooked
for. — and will doubtless create comment in newspapers,
all of which will add greatly to the sale of the book.

And gentlemen, I would do differently from most authors
to push the sale, by writing a personal letter to the
editors of principal influential journals, in my best and
most earnest style, setting forth to them it was a young
girl's first earnest effort, and the heart work of my life,
Send them a copy — which would insure, I trust, a pleasurable
reception — and notice. I would tell them of my struggles to
get it pushed, and by every earnest effort win success for
it. — Thus securing more than the usual "mere mention"
notice of the generality of new books. Gentlemen I
sincerely desire to have you publish and put my own
work on the market. I will ceaselessly exert myself to
secure a thorough pushing publisher and my preference has
always been in your behalf. Please write me an explanatory
letter in full, of what you will do concerning the work, for I
am living at present, on expense, with my widowed mother, whose
only support I am, so you will see I can ill afford to remain
in waiting very long. I know with your extensive experience
and careful judgement you can determine its merits at
a glance. Sincerely believing my book will please you
what are the very best arrangements I can make with you,
— to publish and put it on the market? It contains fifty three
chapters averaging five pages. (headed by an appropriate vers
of poetry) to the chapter. I would like good medium type
cloth bound assorted colors — to retail for about \$1²⁵/₁₀₀, per
copy. Please state whether manuscripts should be sent by mail
or express, and who secure the copy right. Trusting you will have
the kindness to answer by return mail if possible, I remain,
Very Truly Yours, Laura J. Libby, 101, Barr st, Cincinnati, Ohio.