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Cincinnati, Ohio May 31st. 1880.

Mr. James R. Osgood, Boston Mass,

Dear Sir:—

Please do me the favor of giving this letter your own personal perusal to the end:—it being a matter of unusual importance to me. — I will express to you tomorrow, my manuscript of the book I have just completed;—relying entirely upon the unusual interest (our most competent critics say its pages unfold;—) of winning its way to your favor. Those of high standing, who know what is usually taking in the literary world have unanimately agreed — it possessed merit to an unusual degree — so much so, several advised me, knowing your house to be perfectly reliable, — and yourself an unusual prompt pushing gentleman, — to send on for your perusal — my manuscript — without more exchange of letters. Positively, you are the first and only publisher to whom I have submitted my manuscript for perusal. Many tell me the title will pique curiosity — and call attention to the work from all sources — and the work its self — (I may be permitted to say — without being thought egotistical) is of the best. — A commonly good story nowadays, stands no chance with the critical expectant public — it must be something startling — entirely original — and clothed in a beauty of thought — which goes straight to the heart and captivates the reader. Something most decidedly out of the common, to raise a ripple of excitement on the literary tide. Judge for yourself if my work fills the bill — further comment would be useless. — Every one of the literary critics who have seen it — predict an immense sale for it. — If the book "Earnest Trifler" reached the sale of 25,000 copies — what are the best terms I can make with you to publish and push this book of mine Mr. Osgood? — which will bear its

own merit, Now Mr. Cogood I would like to know what terms you would offer to take and publish, and push this work - as you have - so many other successful ones. - I would help you more than you can imagine by securing good lengthy newspaper notices by - writing many of the influential eastern editors - not a short business note with a copy of the book - but a very sympathetic letter, explaining it is a young girls first humble attempt, as it is the only support of my invalid mother and myself - trusting my little work will win its way to their hearts, - I would write them not too much - just enough to be of valuable assistance to push the work, and greatly extend the sale - more than you can imagine,

We can both make a great success of this work if you will take hold of the work, - and push it, I see the east is so much better for literature than the west I am determined to secure a good pushing eastern house to publish this, and my future works, I have always thought of you - as my publisher to be, I have always had so much confidence in the way you put your books on the market, Please favor me by glancing over my manuscript, and if we cannot make satisfactory arrangements to have it out among the earliest publications this fall, please return at once - the manuscript by return express at my expense. I have so much need of having it published at once - You may know ~~know~~ it has been deemed - an extremely saleable and taking book - by competent judges - who have advised me so earnestly to forward it to you for perusal at once - when I send it on to you who are so critical - for inspection and terms, Trusting you will be very favorably impressed, and give me your best offer immediately on perusal I remain, Yours most respectfully
Laura Jane Libbey 101 Barr St, Cincinnati Ohio.