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Mr. A. de Forest Smith,  
Rockland, Maine.



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My dear Smith,

You will be glad, I think, to learn that I am more than a hundred pages into "The Jester's Story" and that I am enjoying it more than a little. It is almost of "God's Fool" but did it occur to you that the author's style is a little more affected - a little more decadent - than in that book. It seems to me that Weyman Schwartz really sacrificed strength by his frequent use of periods. Of course that really has nothing to do with the language but one cannot get over the impression that such business makes upon the mind. For some occult (?) reason you don't find the book readable; prefer Marie Corelli.

Did you tell me that once read "Maestro's Voyage around my Chamber?" I have just read it and have no words to tell what I think of it. - There is nothing really good in it, perhaps, but there is something that appeals to me more strongly than any that I have read for a long time. It suggests "Preston Hand" and "Liberator Boman" but still remains original. Some of the chapters are fine. I suppose it has been translated into English and I should advise you to get it. I know you cannot be very familiar with it or you would mention it once in a while. - The second part (the "Nocturnal Expedition") I have not yet read, but it looks as if I wanted to read it first.

As soon as I find Maestros I shall take up Volney's "Paris." I have always ~~to~~ heard of "them" and have always wanted to read them. They seem to be a history of almost everything from the beginning down, and all in comicality



less than three hundred small pages. There are (included) 50  
pages of notes which seem to contain a world of interesting stuff.  
I mention the value of the book chiefly because it may interest  
you for its historical value. And I mention here of the way that  
you can get any information you desire concerning English translations  
by writing to Schoenfeld or Brentano's.

I am anxious to hear you read Pandemonia. I want to  
hear you talk about it and how you opinion of its merits  
as compared with those of Tully. And speaking of Tully, let  
me quote you a few lines from a letter I got the other day  
from Latham. They will interest you as much (and more,  
I think) than anything I can write today: "Yes, I've  
read 'Tully'. I haven't got it my bed - it's spread out 100  
yards. The first hundred pages will do, but when you get to  
talking Darwinism to your dog Tray &c. . . . I have almost  
given up fiction - you can't do anything; and as for a  
book that pleases, Goodwin's "Words and Phrases" isn't the  
worst. . . . The best book I have acquired (I bought it  
yesterday morning) is Bennett Mandell's "English Composition".  
Was there ever a more interesting book - written on the subject?  
- I am working somewhat intermittently at several subjects:  
Greek drama, Italian & the science of language. Have you read  
Max Müller's lectures? They are fascinating enough for me &c.  
... Can any thing absorb of a man more thoroughly than  
reading the same books will be across years after years?"  
(This is a reference to the classics in lower grades. I don't write  
to show that L. must apply it to Virgil.)

My papers are standing still but there are two



delineations are two - one from the "Competition" and  
one from the "Just Companion" (Institution). My worst  
"fours" or a like name may only perhaps a little faster. Last  
week I wrote and copied "Alexander" a sketch of about 3500  
words much of a line of dialogue. I rather like it myself  
but do not think that you need fear it entering the men  
who suggested it - Mr. Hutchings.

I had an idea that I wanted you but have seen no story  
to "The Marble Faun." If you will check once you  
may find something a that counts comparison with the "The  
Tide" but the thing seem drunk at first. - "The  
no difference to me whether Hawthorne has any definite story to  
tell or not - as long as he doesn't write "Note-Books"

I am still looking through the "Excursion" and am glad  
for the chance. My first trouble is that I am waiting  
for human companionship. I have made an earnest resolution  
however, to get to Boston for a few days in June, and the  
prospect keeps me up straight.

You know must be more than half English. When  
do you expect to get the new edition?

Yours most sincerely  
E. A. R.

Feb 24 - 1895.

P.S.

I do not know or care anything about the Bronze  
Houses of Venice but you may find something about them  
in "White Train" "Innocents Abroad" "Huckle" "Boston Life"  
118 "Peter's Medieval Art" "Readers" or somewhere. I have not



see the Bible - but I shall subscribe for it when  
I get another half-dollar. I'm sorry that you did not  
see O.B. Clason.

E.A.R.