Elmina, Sept. 15, 1870

My dear Aldrich:

Thank you ever so much for the book. I had already finished it, prodigiously enjoyed it, in the periodical of the notorious Howells, but it hit Mrs. Clemens just right, for she is having a reading holiday, now. For the
First time in some months, so between times when the new baby is asleep strengthening up for another attempt to take possession of this place. She is going to read it. Her strong friendship for you makes her think she is going to like it.

I finished a story yesterday, myself. I counted up 1400.
it between sixty Eight
Thousand words—about
the size of your book.
It is for boys & girls—
been at work at it several
years off & on.

I hope Howells is
enjoying his journey to the
Pacific. He wrote me that
You & Ogood were going,
also, but I doubted it.

In my opinion, this univer-
Sal applause over his
book is going to land
that man in a Retreat
inside of two months.
Is he bloated much? -
I notice the papers say
mighty fine things about
Your book, too. You
ought to try to get into
the same establish-
ment with Howells;
it would be ever so much
more cheery than suck-
ing bay rum & make-
believing forty-rod out of a
Sugar-tear in solitude.
But applause does not affect me — I am always calm — this is because I am used to it.

Well, good-bye, my boy, good luck to you.
Mrs. Clemens asks me to send her warmest regards to you and Mr. Aldrich — which I do, to add those of

Your Ever

Mark.