

that I had done so, and entered into an agreement with another publisher. You will clearly see that Lane has no one but himself to thank.

We are probably sailing on Saturday next; so there is no likelihood of my seeing you in New York - but I shall hope to do so before long in London. Meanwhile, my dear Chapman, with all kind regards to you,

I am yours sincerely  
H. Harlan

32, KENSINGTON PALACE MANSIONS,  
DE VERE GARDENS, W.

Norwich, Conn., Feby 7, 1903.

My Dear Chapman:

In urging me to sign an agreement with him for the publication of my next novel, Lane totally misrepresented to me the entire condition and standing of his American branch, as well as the intelligence, ability, experience, and enterprise of his New York manager. But, further than that, I finally did sign an agreement chiefly on the understanding, therein stated, that

Lane was to pay me regularly the sum of £125 a month, beginning in December 1902. Lane knew that except for that undertaking on his part, I would not have signed; and he knew that it would be perfectly easy for me to make a more favourable arrangement, on the same basis of monthly payments, with other publishers. He knew also that I was on the eve of leaving London for America, where I should be three thousand miles from my bankers and from my base of supplies, and that it was necessary to my comfort and repose of mind that I should know a round sum would reach me regularly. Very good: the payment

due in December was, at the last moment, made. But January passed - and no payment was made! And I found myself in an expensive hotel in New York, with a big bill to meet, with practically no money in my pocket, and my bank account in London actually overdrawn! What was I to do? Move into the street, and starve, leaving my luggage as security with the inn-keeper? Borrow, provided I could find someone who would lend? Or cancel my contract with Lane, voided by his own default, and supply my necessities by doing business with another publisher? Plainly the best course was the only rational one. I took legal advice, <sup>acting thereon,</sup> and cancelled my contract with Lane, notified him by registered letter