

Strictly Confidential.

9, SYDNEY PLACE,
BATH.

20th September 1890. nbs 1890.

Dear Madam,

You, a novelist yourself, must well know the absolute impossibility of expressing anything of what one has in contemplation in the rattling and capless bones of a skeleton plot. Were I to reduce the scheme of "A Sea Queen" to the mere story of it, the book would appear to be made up out of nothing at all. I have an idea for a story; should it not suit you I will enlarge it into three volumes for Messrs Gil-

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- whom for whom I must write a novel by June next. It would be told better I think in the few words that you require from my pen. Briefly the idea is this: That I, telling the story myself, am rescued by a large schooner whose owner is a Spaniard. He is in charge of an expedition for kidnapping a girl he loves on the English coast. He represents to us all that she is his wife, and that she is imprisoned by her father who hates him. She is abducted - This scene you will sup-

-pose a powerful one - The darkness of the night, a boat full of armed men silently rowing ashore, & - she shocks rage her, she stabs and kills in a moment of delirium the fellow who has kidnapped her - His ~~one~~ ^{one} or two Spanish confederates ascertain that we sailors have gathered the truth of the story, make off in a boat and leave me in possession of the vessel, the girl, and the crew. How she recovers her reason, how I restore her to her friends, the subsequent adventures in short, it would

be idle for me to attempt to put
before you.

Kindly let me know whether a
story based on this scene, which, I
may tell you, will be full of high
tragic interest, is calculated to suit
your pages? I wish to begin it
at once since I am full of the
idea.

Yours faithfully
H. Clark Russell

2942a
6-3-0

9, SYDNEY PLACE,

BATH.

23rd September 1890.

Dear Madam,

Excuse a hurried line as
I desire to catch the post. I should
have told you that the date of my
proposed story was about 1835-40.
There is nothing whatever of the
private about it. It will be a
wild, tragic romance of the sea,
to be contained I believe in
56,000 words. of course I shall

Take care whilst writing to have
in my mind an audience of
girls of from fifteen to twenty -
five.

Faithfully Yours

W. Clark Russell

W. CR

9, SYDNEY PLACE,

BATH.

Dear Madam

Much depends on a good
title - do you like this:

"The Tragedy of Ida Noble" ?

It should "take" the eye
in an advertisement.

Yours very

W. Clark Russell

Oct 8/90