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September 2 1900

My Dear Judge

Your most welcome letter and the little book arrived two or three days ago and I thank you for them most sincerely. I hasten to say that although I would not swear to anything (al-though I have no prejudices against an oath) I believe that I have received no letter which I have not answered and I fear that there must have been something wrong in the direction of my letters. I shall hope to read your articles. get much time for writing outside what I do in a judicial way. The only thing I have done, except one or two necessary speeches, is a short introduction to Montesquieu's Esprit Des Lois for the Appletons - which I wrote in the Spring as the subject pleased my fancy. It does not seem to have come out yet, although I had hoped to see it before now. a charming theme and one could go on moralizing upon it for a good while. I found my work this last year pretty hard and was glad to take a rest here by the side of the ocean for two months. I have read one or two big books and more light ones. Now I have staying with me an ex Confederate officer who was doing his best to kill me 40 years ago - Last night I had in to meet him Gildersleeve a distinguished scholar another ex Confederate who was badly wounded, and my kinsman Henry Higginson, who has a beautiful sabre cut on his face - and there we were - two from each side of the old war - hobnobbing as cheerfully as possible. But the opposite soldiers got on very well in the interval of fighting. McCabe my guest, who was in the artillery, told us last night of a Captain of sharpshooters coming in to him and asking who was in front of his guns. "Why" he said "Your men are". "No they are not", he answered "I've just been going over the line there isn't a man for a mile and a half - they are all over in the Yankee picket line, playing Seven up" - and McCabe says he took the other fellows night glass and could see them then! Well - I have been stealing a

moment to write to you while my guest was getting shaved. I have just heard his step and must go and look after him. My wife sends kind remembrances to you and Mrs Clark in which I join. I shall read your book a week from now. My duty begins this week.

Ever Sincerely Yours
O. W. Holmes

University Of Tasmania: A.I.Clark papers: C.4 Holmes to Clark 2 Sept 1900

D. Appleton & Co, publishers (Originally of Boston)

B.L. Gildersleeve (1831-1924), philogist & scholar of Virginia

William Gordon McCabe (1841-1920) of Virginia, Confederate Captain of Artillery, school master & Latin scholar

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