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THOMPSON & LYDECKER,
COUNSELLORS AT LAW.

DANIEL G. THOMPSON
CHARLES E. LYDECKER

New York, September 30, 1891.

Hon. A. Inglis Clark,
Rosebank, Hobart,
Tasmania, Australia.

My dear Mr. Clark:-

It has not been lack of interest in you or in your very agreeable letter that has prevented me from replying to yours of a date earlier than I like to see, when I take it up for the purpose of answering. Time slips away very rapidly and I can only urge in excuse the general pressure of occupation. You are by no means the only one of my correspondents who has been neglected.

Let me first thank you very much for the volume of National Australasian Convention debates which came to hand safely and which has interested me very much. I hope you got the copy of my "Philosophy of Fiction" which I ordered sent to you when it was issued.

I have been very well since I saw you and have been closely occupied with my professional work. I have had little or no vacation this summer and am now about starting off to be gone two weeks for a little rest. Beyond one or two addresses and a few short articles for journals, I have done but little in a literary or political way. I do not think I have had a year for a long time

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when I have been so closely occupied with professional business. I suppose I ought not to complain of this, but I often feel its irksomeness and indulge the wish for more leisure.

We are starting in on the fall political campaign with considerable uncertainty as to results. The McKinley bill does not seem to have effected the prosperity of the country which was never greater than at present. The enormous crops of this season, together with the scarcity of food products in foreign countries, no doubt are the causes of this but the Republicans triumphantly point to the present prosperity as a refutation of the Democratic arguments against the McKinley bill. Mr. McKinley, I think, is going to be elected in Ohio this fall. Ohio is naturally a Republican state and in the condition of which I have just spoken, Ohio will be pretty sure to go Republican. In New York the election is likely to be a close one, but I think the Democrats will prevail. A good many of the independent voters, however, are going to support the Republican candidate because they think the republican record on the subject of Ballot Reform is much better than the Democratic; the most perfect form of the Australian ballot having been advocated by the Republicans and defeated by the Democrats. I enclose a letter to the "Times" which sets forth my own views in the contest.

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In Massachusetts a college classmate of mine is Republican candidate for governor, but I think the Democratic candidate who is the present governor, will be likely to be chosen, for he is popular and has made a good record. Altogether I do not expect to see such sweeping Democratic victories over the country this year as we saw last. This is perfectly natural: it is the swing of the pendulum, you know.

I take every opportunity to inform myself about Australia, and I should be only too glad to make a visit to that quarter of the globe, but I see no immediate prospects. Here at home people are coming back from summer tours to Europe and Alaska and even from Japan, and I don't know but what they will get into the habit of going even so far away as Australia. The sea voyage, however, is rather discouraging to people who are no better sailors than I am.

I hope you will let me hear from you as often as convenient. I shall always be glad to learn of your welfare and shall indulge the hope that I may see you, as soon as possible, although so many miles of land and sea separate us. I am, dear sir,

Faithfully yours,

Daniel G. Thompson