

George W. Cable
Dryads' Green
Northampton
Massachusetts

22 October, 1896

Mr. Charles T. Scott,
Dear Sir:

It is impossible for me to give more than a brief and hurried answer to your letter of October 19th. I have never written two books on exactly the same plan. My conception commonly centers around an idea rather than a situation, though, sometimes the situation may come to my mind first. In an extended story, the minor details develop as the story goes. I cannot dictate literary work, I have to write it myself. When I am writing literary matter continuously, I require of myself to work a certain length of time each day whether the product is much or little. I could not write a novel as I should wish to write it, within the term of a year, if I had nothing else in the world to do. I should want eighteen months.

Yours truly
G. W. Cable