

Report on Letter Bag -

- Typographically best of the series. Very little re-arrangement of paragraphs necessary. Many of the quotation marks might be cut out with advantage to the appearance of the page. ~~Haliburton~~ uses them in this work much as he uses italics in others - ~~eg.~~ i.e. to emphasize ~~the~~ ~~an~~ an argument, or to make certain that reader does not miss point of joke or verbal quibble.

~~The whole book is one long sustained pun~~

- The book is full of puns and similar plays upon words, but it is written with such ~~spirit~~ ^{spirit} & vivacity that they do not tire the reader. ~~the~~ ~~book~~ It is ^{one} boisterous merriment & high spirits. Much of the character & incident is pure farce & burlesque. I think it will be popular. I have found ^{comparatively} ~~very little~~ ~~to cut out~~ in the way of dull or controversial matter to cut out. ~~Most of this is contained~~ The greater part of this is contained in the ~~last~~ letter from the auction which ~~concluded~~ ends the book. ~~The~~ ~~passages~~ ~~might~~ ~~be~~ ~~omitted~~ ~~entirely~~ without damage to the interest. ~~of the book~~ Some ~~few~~ ~~passages~~ ~~in~~ the other letters are ^{merely} repetitions of H's opinions on slavery, Torquem, church & state, ~~etc.~~ ^{the same} ~~and these~~ I have excised. They ~~are~~ ~~not~~ ~~important~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~work~~. There are also some passages which have a ^{strong} flavor of indecency &

~~the~~ possess a double meaning: their humor is ~~not~~ ~~more~~ ~~gross~~, and the obscenity seems to be lugged in, ~~without being~~ for its own sake or to give spice to the book, ~~rather than as a natural & characteristic of the~~ In this respect, the ~~Letter Box~~ ~~is not~~ and not a natural & characteristic expression of or development of the ~~various~~ characters. I have marked several passages of this kind & would recommend their excision, as I feel sure they would give offense & ~~narrow the circle of readers~~ ^{and} as they stand they have ^{no} ~~no~~ literary value ~~than being part of the original text~~. A considerable amount of ~~them what~~

As they stand, they have no other value than what they ^{may} possess as being part of the original text. ^

The book should ~~be~~ be provided with ~~a~~ ^{an} ~~iteration~~ ^{iteration} of ~~or~~ giving at some length, an account of the beginnings of steam navigation across the Atlantic & the history of the Great Western. I have supplied ~~some~~ considerable matter dealing with this subject, ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~addition~~ ~~of~~ ~~several~~ ~~notes~~ which ~~are~~ ^{are} necessary for the full enjoyment & comprehension of ~~some~~ many of the intricacies, & these I have added