

APPENDIX C.

(Charles Heavysege to Charles Lanman.)

Montreal, Oct. 12, 1860.

Dear Sir,—I must beg pardon for my delay in answering your generous letter, which was *six weeks* old before I got it from our post-office; and since that time various circumstances have conspired to delay my reply. Your good opinion of what I have written gratifies me much; and I gladly attempt to give you the sketch of my history which you require. I was born in England, as I believe you are aware; my ancestors on the paternal side being of Yorkshire (whence Mr. Gales of the *Intelligencer*.) I was what is usually styled religiously brought up, and, though my works are dramatic, taught to consider not only the theatre itself, but dramatic literature, even in its best examples, as forbidden things. Hence, when a boy, it was only by dint of great persuasion that I covertly obtained from my mother some few pence weekly for a cheap edition of Shakespeare that was then being issued in parts. From the age of nine until the present time, except a short period spent at school, it has been my lot to labor, usually from ten to thirteen hours daily, and with few or no intervals of relaxation. But I was always thoughtful and observant of man and nature, and, from childhood, felt the stirrings of poetry within me. These were cherished in secret for many years; and, being of a rather retired, and, perhaps, solitary disposition, I, until lately, wrote unknown to any except those of my own family.

The first recognition I met with was from the "North British" and "Saturday Reviews," and I believe some others in England that I have not yet seen. "Count Filippo" received a most flattering notice in the *New York Albion*; and Mr. S. Stephens, who is just returned from Boston, tells me that he heard me very favorably spoken of by Emerson, Longfellow, and Mr. Fields (of the firm of Ticknor & Fields). Still, I am at present unknown, and my writing, hitherto, has been under inconveniences that might surprise the author who is accustomed to retire into the quiet of his study when engaged in composition. That I have often repined that it should be so, I will not deny. In a literary sense, fortune has hitherto been but a step-mother to me, but I trust that better days are in store, when I may have that leisure to see, study and write, which is all that I crave. Again thanking you for your kind intention toward me, believe me, with best regards to Mrs. Lanman,

Your truly,

CHARLES HEAVYSEGE.

P.S.—Out of "Saul" I have just finished condensing an *acting* play for a New York manager. If justice be done to it in the performance, I think it will succeed; anyhow, it is a beginning, and may lead to something further. I should be happy indeed to do anything to elevate and refine the stage. Should you hereafter honour me with a letter, you shall find that I appreciate it by answering promptly. Could you post me a copy of the article which you may write, or inform me when and in what paper to look for it?—C. H.