

How Novelists Write for the Press.



HOW authors work — what methods are peculiar to each individual in preparing MS. for the printer—is a question on which, we think, the following fac-similes, of the same size as the originals, of the work of four representative novelists of the present

day, will throw an interesting light. William Black, Walter Besant, Bret Harte, and Grant Allen—here is a page from the manuscript of each. Mr. Black's, with which we commence, fine and careful as it is, is however only a rough draft, which is afterwards re-copied, with slight alterations, for the press.

you the most fortunate person alive — in whose imagination you have larger than
 any saint or soldier, any poet or statesman of our own time, and I wonder
 what they would say if they knew you were thinking of voluntarily dedicating 10 pounds
 to a worthy cause. ^{of course,} it is no uncommon thing for women to give up their earnings and business
 and give living, and go into a convent, where they begin to wash ^{and} sweep and
 behave in a well-to-do kind of way; but they are driven to that by their spiritual needs; they want
 to have their souls ^{completely} cleansed — by penance and self-denial. But you — where does your
 renunciation? A woman has turned your head. You want to find yourself on the same
 plane with her — you want to be her equal — and to do that you think you should throw
 up the whole of your things. You see, if I have remembered ~~your~~ my Calcutta, you
 haven't; you have forgotten that you must learn to labour truly to get your own living,
 and do your duty in that state of life into which it has pleased God to
 call you. You want to change your state in life; you want to become a barrister. What
 would hinder? The chances are entirely against your being able to earn your own living —
 at least for years; but what is far more certain, that your fashionable friends — whose positions
 & occupations you admire — would care nothing more about you. You are interesting to
 them now because you are a favourite of the public, because you play the chief part of all
 the new dramas, what would you be as a business barrister? This would provide you with
 tobacco & wine and beer. Startling then? If you require to marry one of these names
 of high degree, what would your claims of qualifications be? You say you had almost
 been a girl in charge of boys and ponies. A girl in charge of dogs and ponies doesn't
 enjoy many conversations with his young mistress; and if he were bold to demand
 attention, a pointer would pretty soon have that Claude kicked off the premises — and serve
 him right. If you had come to me & said "I am five weeks off; I am being spotted & letted to
 death; the amethyst & sapphire of life is being ^{gone} that in ^{all} this fashionable flattery, this
 public notoriety and applause; ^{and} to receive myself a little — as a kind of consolation —
 I am going to put aside my trappings — I will go and work as a hotel-carrier for three
 months or six months, I will live on the plainest fare, I will bear patiently the cursing
 the misdeeds of the young with unpardonably hard at me" — then I could have understood that.
 But what is it you renounce? — and why? You think you will recommend yourself better
 to your mill friends if you dropped the theatre altogether — "E" you'd better hire a hall,
 and have a grand concert, gloriously. "O" nobody likes being preached at less than I do myself. Hargreaves
 said, with perfect equanimity, "but you see I think I ought to tell you, when you visit me, how
 I regard the education. And mind you, there is something very heroic — very unapproachable,
 heroic — but magnificent all the same — in your idea that you might ~~thoroughly~~ at once cut
 the education & probably you have more of a mere matter of sentiment. Of course you won't
 do it. You wouldn't bring yourself to ~~become~~ ^{become} a mere nobody — it would happen if you went
 out chambers & began striking up law lawfully, and you wouldn't be any nearer to Salomon's
 wisdom & beer. Just the way; as to the people who possess their by birth and inheritance,
 the trouble with you, dear, my boy, as with most of us, is that you ^{never} ^{learn} ^{from} ^{the} ^{people}
 it is quite true that if you were called to the bar you ^{would properly} ^{be} ^{seated} ^{at} ^{the} ^{table} of

Fac-simile of a page of MS. from Mr. WILLIAM BLACK'S *Prince Fortunatus*.

Bret HarteThe Twins of Table Mountain

Part II — A cloud on the Mountain. Level
 They lived on the verge of a vast story land spread so
 far above the surrounding country that its vague outlines
 were from the nearest valley scarcely a mere cloud
 sheet resting upon the lower hills. The west and east
 of the turbulent west that marked its eastern base ^{were} ~~was~~
 but at that height; the winds that strove with the
 grand pines that leaf-very cleared its flanks sped them
fast below the summit. For at various with west
meteorological records and stories Calvin seemed to know
this secret altitude. The few Alpine flowers which
flourish there put to forming crevices; rain and sun
fell slits perpendicularly, hardly and continually over the

Jerry Stokes

~~The London Daily~~

a member of his ship's crew. To put it more plainly, he was
 Jerry Stokes was the provincial champion. Not a man in all Canada, he used
 to boast with pardonable professional pride, had turned off as many famous murder-
 ers as he had. He was a pillar of the constitution, was Jerry Stokes. He represented
 the creature and he wasn't ashamed of his ^{office, either} foot, quite on the contrary. Zeal for his

He called it a useful,
 a respectable, and a
 necessary calling.

nocturnal throe visible in his face. If it were not for him and his uterine, he would
 to say to the ^{that stood him fast} ~~something~~ word, in the suburbs, no man's life would be safe, in the
 Province. It was a practical philanthropist, a public benefactor. It is not good
 that foul crime should go unpunished ^{in his way} on the land: and he, Jerry Stokes, was

the chosen instrument for its salutary & repressive executions performed with punctu-
 ality and despatch: for terms of ^{to the} ~~for~~ Stokes, Port Hope, Ontario.
 Not that philanthropy was the most striking characteristic in Jerry's other

Fac-simile of a page of the MS. of Mr. GRANT ALLEN'S story, Jerry Stokes (see next page).