

Ann Arbor, 8th of April, 1897.

Dear Mr. Dawes:

I think your Libby bids will depend for their success upon the 'crowd' that attends his auction that day. I once bought of him, for \$1,68, a \$25,00 book, I had sent him carte blanche as to price, having wrote to him, GET IT ! At the sale nobody happened to be on hand who knew the history and value of the volume.

I believe "Walden" rates higher in the market than the "Week," so I should not be astonished if you lost "Walden." However, if you do not get "Walden," I know a clergyman's widow, living some eight miles out in the country, who has the cleanest first edition of the book that I have ever seen. I told her the volume was worth \$8,00, and if you miss the Libby copy, I will get this one and pay her the odd dollar myself to make good my valuation. She also has, in as fine a state of preservation, a first edition of Thoreau's "Letters," which I count as worth \$4,00.

I would not buy the Routledge edition of Sophocles. Far better write to an English dealer in second-hand books and get a good copy. While the second edition is the nearer correct as a translation, the first issue (in two volumes) is preferable as a beautiful book.

"What is the best Homer," Read Matthew Arnold's essay on "Translating Homer," and decide for yourself. Chapman's English is more enticing than his rendering of the original. Its greatest charm is in reading ^{it} in one of the early copies, such as Chas Lamb was in the habit of picking up at the bookstalls. We cannot know that delight.

Sincerely yours,

Sam'l A. Jones.