

San Jose, August 13th, 1888.

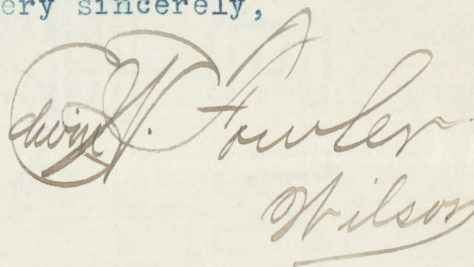
My Dear Mr. Bancroft:-

I want to call your attention to the remark of Mr. Clark in the matter sent for his biography that he would not be made second to Leland Stanford or any other man in California. Put the very best man or woman you have on this biography. I wish Sessions could write it but I know he cant. I wish much more you could write it. Use your own judgment. My opinion is it could be made to cover fifty pages just as well as not and he would just as leave pay for fifty pages as five. I call your attention also to the request of Mr. Clark that his portrait will be placed first in some volume. May I have the privilege of stating to him positively that this will be done. He says he is entitled to it, that he came here in 1846 and I believe he is entitled to it. He says he wont have his portrait stuck back in the back part of a book where people wont read it. The family were thinking of publishing a small volume on his life to be preserved by members of the family

The meat in the cocoanut in this case is in pleasing absolutely and beyond all cavil. Make it spicy. I have written a long letter of suggestions to be handed to the party who writes the biography. Referring to the title, Chronicles of the Kings, I want to be indulged in telling you what Mrs. Clark said. I found it necessary to tell her what the work would be called and the next day she said to me "What a happy thought; how lovely. It is a most beautiful title". So here is one case where the title, Chronicles of the Kings did no harm, and I know of six others. Saw Henry Miller yesterday. He will fall in the same category. I am to meet him in S.F. on the 18th, but fear I will not be able to close with him on that day owing to his great rush of business. Do you expect to remain in the city over Sunday? If you do I would like to have you go with me on Saturday and see Miller but I would not have you inconvenience yourself as I will have only a few moments with him. Miller said to me yesterday "The biography could be made to please me, and if it pleases me it is all right." I promised to please him. Your letter s. of introduction have the desired effect. They are very helpful. please send me letter of introduction to James P. Pierce of Santa Clara, to J. P. Seargent of Seargent's station, Juan Gallegos, ~~xxxxx~~ Mission San Jose. The work is opening up here

just about right. It is rather a slow process, but it is absolutely the only way we can do the work. Murphy is my next subject. If I cant catch him here I intend to invite him to go to San Francisco with me. We must have him. With kindest regards I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, reading "Dwight H. Fowler" in a cursive script. The signature is written over a faint, circular stamp or watermark. Below the main signature, the name "Wilson" is written in a similar cursive style, underlined.

Coup d'état
d'état.

San Jose, Cal., August 13th, 1888.

The History Company,
San Francisco.

Gentlemen:-

I send herewith material for the biography of William Squire Clark together with his photograph. This biography is to be prepared without regard to space. Much of the matter which I send is foreign to the subject in hand, but Mr. Clark and his family dont think so. Much of this that I now send you was in a crude manner prepared with the thought in view by the family of publishing the autobiography of Mr. Clark. I say autobiography and yet I dont know that it was intended it as an autobiography particularly as they advised with me as to employment in repairing it in case they decided to have it instead of having him occupy a place in C.K

Then again I am not ignorant of the fact that the matter which I now send you is very much disjointed and out of shape, but you must remember that I have been dealing with an invalid. I could not direct his thought as I would have done had he been in good health. I simply had to allow the old man to have his own way, to tell it his own way and to tell what he pleased. If I would branch out on any topic of interest to us, if it didnt please him he would say I dont want to talk about that I have something I want to tell you. Much of this matter is incongruous, but I want to impress upon the mind of the one who is to write this biography that the family of William Squire Clark have no doubt that William Squire Clark is the greatest man in the world. They have a right to think so. The great trouble with the family so far as I am able to see while they have been very kind in aiding me to get this data, is that they have no true conception of what constitutes biography. But that is neither here nor there so far as we are concerned. They want the biography a certain way and they shall have it. They want the early incidents of his life preserved and they dwell on his early career. You will observe that very little is given concerning his movements for many years past. The reason for this may not be apparent. It is this. Mr. Clark's life, since he got possession of so much real estate in San Francisco, while a busy life has been a very quiet life. He has simply had to take care of his property; that is all. He is indeed a very wealthy man. He is positively unwilling to let the value of his property be known but I say to you privately not for publication, that he is worth eight millions of dollars; how much more I do not know. The analysis of his character is a delicate and important task. You have not the varied

ever-changing of a politician, the ups and downs of a miner, the polish of the scholar to aid you in the preparation of this biography, and yet it can be made most beautiful. William Squire Clark is a great man. I say great and I mean great in the true significance of that word. A little incident in his life here may not be amiss. years ago he owned a residence near the Catholic church; a magnificent residence, but the ringing of the bell and the creed of this people displeased him very much, so much so that he tore down the mansion and build further out of town. He hates Catholics. He is an extreme partisan to the public. We tried to agree on the number of pages that this should cover but we could not do so. I brought the matter up twice and the only satisfaction I could get was, "Make it just right, just as it should be. Omit nothing that would add to its completeness." I first said from twenty to thirty pages, and that seemed to satisfy; the next day I suggested forty or fifty pages and that seemed to satisfy better.

The understanding is that this is to be written second to no biography that shall appear. If it were second in point of interest or in the number of pages devoted to it it would be rejected providing they could find out that another occupied a more conspicuous place. I emphasize the point that Mr. Clark said to me individually, note of which you will find in the material sent, that he would not be made second to Leland Stanford ~~xxxx~~ or any other man in California. My judgement~~xxx~~ is that it can be made not less than fifty pages. I am under promise as soon as I am in receipt of this biography to go to the family and read every word of it. I have promised that we will make it please them absolutely and completely.

Here is one point to which I want to call particular attention Mrs. Clark and the children are very desirous that the beautiful home life of Mr. Clark be made to appear. His love for his children his devotion to his wife, the provision he makes for their comfort and their happiness. The interest he takes in the education of the children. In this connection I want to mention a peculiarity of Mr. Clark not for publication but as a pointer. He believes that the fashions of the day are destructive to physical feminine perfection. As an instance he will allow none of his daughters to wear a corset until after she is eighteen years of age. One daughter seventeen to whom I talk a great deal was without a corset and never wore one. He is very liberal in his treatment of the family. Whatever adds to their comfort and happiness and is best, he provides, no matter what the cost may be. It was a beautiful picture to see the old man now tottering in the grave sitting back in his chair unable to rise, unable indeed to grasp your hand firmly, so devoted to his children. On leaving his apartments each daughter would kiss him and say "Good Bye, papa". Each child is not only respectful to him as an honored parent, but delights in doing anything possible to contribute to his comfort.

His hope rests in his ~~xxxxxxx~~ little boy about 4 years of age, William Squire Clark, Jr. Up to the close of my last conversation with Mr. Clark he objected to having the names of the children appear excepting that of William Squire Clark Jr., hence I am not able to give you the names and ages of the four daughters but Mrs. Clark stated to me privately that she thought I had the right idea about it and that when I returned to-day she would endeavor to have matters arranged with the old gentleman so that the children could appear as they properly should. Please don't forget to paint a beautiful picture of the home life of Mr. Clark. His home is a beautiful mansion, situated on the Alameda enroute between San Jose and Santa Clara. It stands back on an eminence and is perfect in its construction. I do not know the number of rooms it contains but I do know it is most elegantly furnished. Not a particle of paint was used on the inside; it is all hard finished; the floors are of three different kinds of wood, peculiarly laid and where not carpeted present a very pleasing appearance. It is one of the finest mansions in San Jose. In the construction of this residence Mrs. Clark stated to me that Mr. Clark aimed at elegance that which was solid, substantial, grand indeed, but would have nothing gaudy or showy in any way. He formerly owned an elegant residence in San Francisco but he has disposed of this. A description of his property as to what he owned as mentioned in my note in the matter sent was refused, but this does not include a description of the home which should properly appear. Another characteristic of Mr. Clark is his liberality to his servants. He has not a whole retinue of servants around him; he has just what he needs, and Mrs. Clark stated to me that it was his rule to give each servant double the amount agreed upon. While W.S. Clark is recognized by many people as a very close man financially, I regard him as generous hearted. To be sure he has endowed no institution so far as I am able to learn and has built no colleges out of other people's money but he cares for his own; commendable trait. Any reference that you might make to his large property interests in San Francisco as gathered by yourself would not be amiss and I think the whole family would take kindly to it. Now please get this biography out just as soon as you possibly can. A very important reason for wanting it at once is Mr. Clark's very feeble condition. He has scarcely been out for the past six months. I think he will never go out again alive. Another reason is I don't want to and will not remain up in this northern country any longer than is absolutely necessary. Call Mr. Bancroft's attention to the statement of Clark that he will not be made second to Stanford or any body else. I will write him personally on this point. Now if I have not fully

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covered the ground all you have to do is to call my attention to the fact and I will answer any questions you may ask. I have endeavored to get this material in such shape that further data would not be needed but if further data is needed make out your list of questions and get them forward to me as soon as possible.

You will observe in the matter sent that the old man repeats goes back and comes over the ground again. I couldnt help this.

Whenever he would think of anything he wanted to tell I had to let him tell it. Believing I have fully covered the points desired by you, I remain,

with great respect,
Yours faithfully,

W. H. Fowler
Wilson

San Jose, Cal., Aug. 13th, 1888.

Mr. N.J. Stone,

San Francisco.

My dear Sir:-

I herewith transmit to you material for the Clark biography together with photo. It is as full and complete as I can make it. You will observe I have said nothing of a business character in the other letter. My idea is you shall make this biography fifty pages long. I may be wrong in this; consult with Mr. B. and do just as you please. I believe Clark can be taken for \$25,000. just as easily as he can be taken for five. I know you will think I am a terrible man to hurry things up but I do want to get this back before the old man dies. He may obtain a new lease on life and get around again but I don't think he will. Enclosed find letter to Mr. Bancroft, which please deliver to him. I am going out now to invite Barney Murphy to take dinner with me. It is my opinion I will have to get at him on social grounds. It may cost ten or twenty dollars but if I can get him to accept my invitation to dinner I will get him also to accept my invitation for a place in C.K. If necessary I will bring him to San Francisco as you suggest providing I can. Will try also to work some smaller fry this week. With kindest regards I remain,

Yours faithfully,

William F. Fowler
Wilson

P.S./ It has just occurred to me that if convenient it might not be amiss for you and Mr. Bancroft to call on J.B. Lankershim at the Baldwin hotel this week, simply to pay your respects. These little courtesies help.