Bowdler Sharpe Collection

H.M.S. "Vernon"

Portsmouth

16 June 84

My dear Sharpe

Kindly send me a postcard to say when Brit. Ams. Report on [illegible] Shell Collection will be issued, or when likely to be. I expect to be off again very soon.

Yours very sincerely

R. W. Coppinger

Bowdler Sharpe Collection

H.M.S. "Vernon"

31 March 85

My dear Sharpe

Many thanks for your kind offer to undertake correction of proofs; but there is no need whatever for you to victimize yourself in that way, because the proofs come in such small scraps and at such long intervals that the correction of the printer's errors does not take me more than about an hour. If Sonnenschein had carried out his promise of circulating the MS. among us for further revision before submitting it to the printer, I should have liked to have had your assistance in strengthening the weak places (alas, too numerous), but there is no scope for making material improvements in the proofs.

I do not know what to make of Sonnenschein. You spoke so highly of him at first, when I raised doubts as to his position as a Publisher. (Dr. Günther stared aghast at me when I mentioned incidentally that I was dealing with Sonnenschein.) It is clear to me now that he is about to bring out the work in a shoddy style, and I should therefore be very glad — if it were possible — to withdraw the MS. from him.

Unfortunately our agreement about "style of publication" was only verbal, but was made in your presence. He breaks off that agreement with me on the ground that you failed in polishing up the MS., which he says you submitted to him as "a mere rough diary". I have expostulated with him, but receive no answers to any of my late letters.

Would it be possible to withdraw the MS. from him now?

Yours very sincerely

R. W. Coppinger

P.S. Do not think me ungrateful for your goodwill with regard to furthering the book. I always thought my MS. a very bare production, and am therefore not much surprised at Somerschein eventually coming to the same conclusion. However he ought to have known what he was about in the first instance.