

*Proposed*

Boston,

March 16, 1886.

Robert Ridgway, Esq.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir: We have your favor of yesterday, & return the sample Mt. as requested. We have had your proposition under consideration, & been making our estimates, & expected to communicate with you again this week. We did not understand that you were in urgent haste for a decision, or asking us to compete with other publishers for the book, & had we known the latter to be the case, we should have asked to be excused from the competition. We are glad to learn that you have made a satisfactory arrangement, & trust that the book will be abundantly successful.

Yours very truly,  
Houghton, Mifflin & Co.  
J. H.