



1914-01-07

Letter from Melville B. Anderson to [John Muir], 1914 Jan 7.

Melville B. Anderson

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FABRE LINE



CYR. FABRE & CO
MARSEILLE

on board S.S. Saint Anna,

16th January, 1914

Off Corsica, en route from
Marseille to Naples,
then homeward bound.

My dear, good Friend:

Your kind &
cheering letter reached me at Paris,
where I was during the holidays and
since I fled to the Riviera (Nice)
to smother the grip of a cold &
cough. I had intended to go to London,
but Paris weather was had enough
for me. I fear California & Italy
have spoiled me for the cold North,
where Fidelity is supposed to be native.
I am taking this roundabout route
Marseille - Naples - Palermo - N.Y.
for the fun of it and for a sea
cure. It gives me about three
days at Naples and a day at Palermo.

05670

This ship is due at N.Y. ^{about} the 23rd Jan.,
and I hope for the pleasure of
a visit to you sometime in
February -

Your magnificent offer to bear
the expense of the publication of
my Dante leaves me speechless.
I dare not say I am grateful,
remembering the cynical definition
of Gratitude as "a lively anticipa-
tion of favors to come." You
are certainly showing yourself
the best of friends, by all
definitions, however cynical.
I don't know where you derive
your faith that my work is
one to deserve your munificence.
I should like to show you some
specimens, if it would not bore
you. Possibly you may have
seen my rendering of the Lord's
Prayer (Purg. XI), published by
Stanford University in the Mitche
Memorial Volume.

FABRE LINE



CYF. FABRE & CO
MARSEILLE

on board S.S. _____

to _____

05670

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p. 3

- I regret that I seem to have misled you with regard to the state of my work. I have the *Inferno* in passable state of finish, tho' I still expect to do some retouching. The *Purgatorio* is done in first draft, and the second draft thro' the 20th Canto. It was heart-breaking to leave Florence with the work in this state. I go home in fulfillment of a promise made to my son Robert; at a great sacrifice of my peace of mind and of my work; contrary to Flugel's advice, contrary to what I know ^{well} would be Browne's advice. It is a love-sacrifice to Robert, who knows little of life deeply, and little knows what this is costing me. I shall probably go back to Italy before many months. Had I stayed there I might have put my work into final shape this winter. Now, at it is,

I am wasting ^{CHD} my best time, as I
can do nothing while travelling.

We will later arrange plans for
the book when we meet. I
hope to have it beautifully
printed - Notes are necessary;
Dante cannot be understood
without them; yet I take no
interest in them. If or when,
I get the paper front problem
solved, I can take up the
notes as task-work. If some-
times think of publishing without
notes, as there are many, many
editions of the good notes, to which
any one really interested can
refer. But probably the
omission of notes would deprive
me of many readers; and, after
all, I am doing this for my
countrymen and don't want to
furnish them with an excuse for
not buying my book.
Yours with reverent affection,
Melville B. Anderson

Mr John Muir