My dear Cane. I was just on the point of writing to inquire whether anything was wrong when your exceedingly kind and cordial letter reached me. I am deeply grieved you have been unwell. I am anxious to have taken a longer rest after the Maneuver, and to have enjoyed a little quiet and fresh air. I am sure you and I, in some instances, have been bound to make exhausting demands upon your nervous system. I think you would be wise indeed for the sake of your health to take a prolonged holiday, either in Italy or some other country, in which you could depend on the sun. Shall I say that?
for intelligence of your health, which I have been looking forward to
for some time. Meanwhile let me offer you any heartiest congratulations on the magnificent success of the Illusionist. The poem was pleased to notice was with one or two
sentences not worth notice, & extremely enthusiastic. And indeed the splendid vitality of the book is to any one with a proper sense of literature, simply irresistible. There will be an extended notice of it which will appear in the October number of The
Judgement Illustrated. On one or two minor points I have ventured to enter a half-hearted protest—they are many points of detail of the book as a whole, there is, and can be but one opinion, it is superb. And it is only because of its extraordinary
force, that is to say its living breathing power, than the ones or twain the acting character feelings, causes a passing rift of irritation or dis-
appointment, lest of disapproval. So far as the writer is concerned, that must be taken as a compliment, an acknowledgment of success for our vital characters can offend. So soon as the reader begins to read this action, it a character with a keen personal interest, the writer has succeeded in the highest function. The novelistic and such interest is marred by every one of our principal characters. There are times, for example, when one would like to kick Caesar because Caesar, and successfully. Or, The Illusionist is an enthralling book. Powers, magnificent sustained, stands it on every page, and there are passages, specially at the beginning of a noble
and impressive beauty. I need not enlarge on the deepening tragedy of the later parts.

About my new book I am more than gratified with your cordial and encouraging praise. But I am quite sure that if you are pleased with the first vol. you will be still better pleased with vols. II & III. The some scenes are, I believe, exciting, and I should be pleased to think that the book has more character.

It is common to stories of adventure. My publishers are strongly enthusiastic about it, & I trust they will not be disappointed. The tale took it out of me: for there is a good deal of emotional price in it. Perhaps I should rather say it was the cause of a good deal of emotional expenditure. When you have the necessary leisure, I shall be glad indeed to have your verdict of vols. 2 & 3. I mean not to accept my heartfelt thanks for your kindness. Please let me know how your health goes & with warmth regards to all. I am very faithfully, J.H. Kemble.