Dear Mr. W. Caine,

The copy of "The Christian" you have so kindly sent me shall be treasured for your sake this very day. This powerful treatise, in its wholesomeness and grace, is unsurpassed. It does not deceive, but...

...has been my joy which supplied the title of the book; but, from my point, she is more truly the outline of a Christian than her uniquely religious lover. She is "in the world but not of it," and carries through it the vipers' authority of her nature with which she was born unembellished, in splendid contrast with St. John whom the world, the world influenced, in deed, overcame & drove...
into a refuge from it. Storied Christian instincts minus Christian ideals plus Christian practice, whilst Stone had Christian ideals minus Christian nature minus Christian practice. The one was “the salt of the earth” the other was a block of salt in a salt warehouse. The former is an approximation to the true Christian, the latter is an exaggeration.

The conventional Christian, who is a caricature for tradition of the real Christian. I suppose that you have in these two characters created a personification of great offense goodness. You know I see it so will help towards a much needed rectification of popular sentiment on a most vital point, and I trust also a rectification of life.

Yours Very Truly,

Rufus W. Griswold

Kindest remembrances to Mrs. Caire & Ralph.