



GENTLE and kindly letter of dissent regarding the answer to a query in The Sunday Herald of Aug. 6 has just reached me, and I will print it here.

My Dear Madam—The story of "Jim Bludsoe," spoken of in your last number, had a foundation in fact. The pilot in question was one John Maynard, and he stood at his post until he perished. This golden deed took place on Lake Erie, I think on the Canadian side, though I will try and find out for you for a certainty. At least, it was told at length in an old Third Reader of Canadian school books when I was going to school. When I first read "Jim Bludsoe" I was struck with the similarity of the incidents. John Maynard was not the rowdy counterpart of Jim Bludsoe, as he was represented as a good man, as I remember the tale, but the captain asked him to "hold on," and he "held on" till he died. As Secretary Hay lived in Cleveland he very likely heard of the occurrence. I know it was related as a fact.

I wish to ask you if you know of any collection of Rebecca Harding Davis' works. I have heard of one of her earlier stories I would like to get. It was called "Waiting for the Verdict," and has been very much praised. Trusting that I have not taken up too much of your time, I remain, yours,  
E. L. J.

I have heard of the story of John Maynard, and, while the fact of "holding on" may possibly have helped Mr. Hay, the truth remains that he himself said that he founded the character on that of a real Jim Bludsoe, who died in Denver a few years ago, and whom Mr. Hay went to see when he was in that city shortly before the man's death. It was this fact which influenced my reply, rather than any thought that such an incident, or something similar, might not have actually happened. Thank you very much, however, for your courtesy and kindness. I am sure many who have never known the John Maynard story will join me in gratitude to you for bringing it to mind. Sometimes these heroic deeds are too quickly forgotten.

With regard to Mrs. Rebecca Harding Davis' books, you can find them by sending to Harpers', who were her publishers. Any bookseller would get them for you. If you have never read "Waiting for the Verdict" you have a great pleasure in store for you. You could obtain through the publishers a complete list of her books.

