Autobiography:

Talking of Chautaugua it would be interesting to note the way the publishers are trying to scramble 2 for its patronage. Yesterday at Mrs. Prescotts she showed me possibly the first edition of Ben Hur and in it was a note saying that ~~thereswasazpossibilityofitsbeingsuggestin~~ it might be a good idea to try to get it to the Chautauqua readers, that there were twenty thousand of them. The letter was written in 1880/ It would be a fine thing if it would be adopted. There was some negotiation, I believe. I think Darnell Booth Merrill who published the book would probably have information. Also, it should be looked up in the Chautauquan. At least there is an amusing publishing angle to it.

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