Los Gatos,
Dec. 23, 1897,

My dear Walsh,

I mean the stories, as directed, but have been strongly tempted to submit them for publication to the Examiner. For, mind you, they are no such good. You are a born
humorish of a circumspectly vain and pleasing breed. I hardly know where to find anything better than the plight of the Egyptian soldiers, compelled to fight with one hand and hold up their lances with the other!

In the more incident I think Ramesses should not have completely cuided the adventure in council, for that dulls the edge of anticipation and robs the performance of its novelty.

By the way, I wonder if you know that it was customary for Egyptian
kings to turn loose lions upon the enemy. There is a famous painting of the same Ramesses doing this.

Some mention of this practice might advantageously have been worked into the story. For example, Ram.

might have ordered the usual “tactic,” but the

provider subordinate entrusted with execution of the command might have substituted (to the maker’s astonishment) the more formidable beasts.

But it is very good as it is; as it is also the dominie turn.
proud of you, my boy,
so, my Chicago books are not stories. One is
satires — of the Lucian—Swift sort; the other
is fantastic fables.
I'm buried beneath
proofs of the Putnam's
edition of "Soldiers and
Civilians" — somewhat un-
largest and with a new
title, or rather the title of
the English edition: "In the
Midst of Life." The pub-
lishers preferred it that
way.
I wish you a
Christmas, fill the tank to suit.*

Moses Ambrose Bierce.