

File 20111127.1829: Negotiating with the validator during the CC evaluation of RTG 1.0 was like the latter part of *Bartleby the Scrivener*:

‘Bartleby’, said I, ‘are you aware that you are the cause of great tribulation to me, by persisting in occupying the entry after being dismissed from the office?’

No answer.

‘Now one of two things must take place. Either you must do something, or something must be done to you. Now what sort of business would you like to engage in? Would you like to re-engage in copying for some one?’

‘No; I would prefer not to make any change.’

‘Would you like a clerkship in a dry-goods store?’ A

‘There is too much confinement about that. No, I would not like a clerkship; but I am not particular.’

‘Too much confinement’, I cried, ‘why you keep yourself confined all the time!’

‘I would prefer not to take a clerkship’, he rejoined, as if to settle that little item at once.

‘How would a bar-tenders business suit you? There is no trying of the eyesight in that.’

‘I would not like it at all; though, as I said before, I am not particular.’

His unwonted wordiness inspirited me. I returned to the charge.

‘Well then, would you like to travel through the country collecting bills for the merchants? That would improve your health.’

‘No, I would prefer to be doing something else.’

‘How then would going as a companion to Europe, to entertain some young gentleman with your conversation, w would that suit you?’

‘Not at all. It does not strike me that there is any thing definite about that. I like to be stationary. But I am not particular.’

—Melville, 1853.

Dr Fléchais wants to see my model Wednesday before our meeting.

References