

August 24, 1927

Mr. Allen Johnson
602 Hill Building
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Johnson:

I can forgive your severe letter because I have been an editor and know what it is to have an eleventh hour notice. I have nothing but illness to plead as an excuse. My mistake was in having consented at all.

Yours is not the only agreement that I have had to cancel this summer - one of them very important from a professional point of view. I am really and truly sorry for the trouble I have caused you, but I am familiar enough with the making of dictionaries of biography to know that there is always on hand a staff of people who do the work better than the "trained seals" from outside.

Very truly yours