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September 22. [1928]

My Dear Sam:

Your note of a few days ago was received. I suppose that you and Mary are or soon will be entirely chickless, but that is to be expected - the young birds will fly the coop.

We are holding the fort and are glad to be able to do that. We are leading the simple life domestically. Politically, the situation is interesting. The best judgment of conservative men hereabouts is that Virginia will give its electoral vote to Smith, though by a materially reduced majority. North Carolina is much more doubtful in this particular. I notice that the betting is 3 1/2 to 1 against Smith - generally a fairly good indication, although in 1918 it was, the day before election, 6 to 5 against Wilson. The first poll of the Literary Digest's straw vote, too, to 2 to 1 against Smith. So we shall not become unduly optimistic. Poor Clark! Rasskob must be a great plunger to entertain hopes of Pennsylvania. Still, that is the way he made his money. I only wish that you and Clark and I had, not his money of course, but the equivalent of a fraction of his holdings. This life is made up of IFS, and IF Smith had been a Protestant, or IF he had been dry, the odds might be otherwise. He made a great speech in Oklahoma Thursday night and I am looking for another from him to-night at Denver. We heard it perfectly in our library.

I want you to warn Mary that the next time I entrust Page to her keeping, she must not listen to the smooth talk of salesmen of ladies' silk dresses. Page's was a scream. But it was worth \$14.45 to have this as a reply to subtle remarks concerning books which I buy from time to time from persuasive agents. Oh, ye Gods! Just sigh on the dotted line and all your troubles will be over. In last Sunday's cartoon of Joe and Vi, Joe fell for a 20 volume history of France, and when Vi gave him the laugh, he replied that he always had wanted a good history of that great country.

Thus we learn by experience - until the next saleswoman comes along. But to think that Mary fell for it, too. That is delicious.

Yours always,

