

Journal

March 22, 1921

Miss Margaret S. Lockwood,  
218 Cumberland St.,  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

My dear Miss Lockwood:

Your letter and the "personality sketch" of my unworthy self are on my desk. I suppose I need not tell you that I have read them "with interest" - that would go without saying, such is human vanity.

What pleased me particularly was that you remembered that long ago talk of mine over in Brooklyn. It is comforting to know that when one, who, in spite of the fact that she talks a great deal, has all sorts of misgivings about its effectiveness, learns that she has said something that somebody had found useful. It is not often that one of these efforts of mine crystallizes in something so important as the sketch.

And now as to the publishing of it. I should doubt whether that was wise, for this reason. The interview on which you base the sketch is fictitious - that is, we never had the interview. You have used the material on which you could get your hand skillfully, but the result would deceive no one who knows me or knows my little farm.

My Connecticut farm is not on the top of a hill, it is in a valley. I have, thank Heaven, a row of elms; but if you had been there, it would not have been the elms but my two oaks that you would have celebrated. Then, too, you make of my little study at the farm something so fine that it makes me green with envy. It has no flat-top mahogany desk, no natural stone fireplace. There is not a picture of Lincoln in the whole farm house. I am a great deal simpler than you make me out up in Connecticut. For instance, there are no Japanese cherry trees bordering the walk.

These are little things, of course; and I do not criticize them in considering this sketch as a piece of class room work, in which one must use the material one has; but simply from the point of view of a piece of published work.

As to the "interview" itself on my talk over in Brooklyn, there are a few points ~~to~~ which I would take exception if you were to try to publish it. If you want to get something that you think

(Miss M. S. L. 2)

an editor will take, would it not be wiser for you to come over and have a talk with me? Then you will have a basis of actual fact and observation as a setting for your sketch. I have not been very well for some time and am going to the country for a few days for ten days but will gladly see you when I return early in April.

Very truly yours,