

November 3, 1934

Dear Gilbert Grosvenor:

A few months ago I learned that our old friend, Mrs. George Kennan, was in sore financial straits. The bulk of her income came from stock in the Harriman bank now made worthless by Harriman's unfortunate manipulations. On top of that the Medina bank closed down and has not reopened yet. It froze up all the money she had. To help a sister she sometime ago placed a mortgage of \$2600.00 on her old Medina home - a family place and now she is without even the money to pay the interest on this small mortgage. I have taken up her case with Dr. Pritchett who has been most kind and sympathetic in considering it. We both feel that the first thing is to raise a little fund which will prevent the foreclosure of the mortgage and give her money for food - she is literally without it - until her estate can be settled without too great sacrifice.

Dr. Pritchett ~~has~~ started the fund and he and I agree that you and Elsie might be glad to help out and that possibly there would be somebody else in Washington that you would feel would be glad to lend a hand. I hope we are not wrong.

One possible source of income might be from the sale of G. K.'s papers, particularly on Russia in his time. There is a great collection of letters and notes. He was one who always saved everything and kept it in order. It should be useful in some library. Could you make any suggestions?

I should so appreciate your help in this matter, dear Gilbert Grosvenor. I cannot bear to think of George Kennan's wife in such straits as she finds herself now. It seems to me it is up to his and her old friends to do all they can. I am unhappy myself that I can do so little.

I hope you will take this letter as it is meant and not feel that I am imposing upon you in writing it.

With love to Elsie believe me

Mr. Gilbert Grosvenor
National Geographic Magazine
Washington, D. C.

Faithfully yours