

December 23, 1938

Dear Mr. Lengel:

Of course I recall that years ago you urged me to write my autobiography. I also supposed it was by your prompting that Mr. Mayes of the Pictorial persuaded me to try it. I turned over a few chapters to him but it was really nothing that he could use without transformation by one of his ghosts. I am not squeamish about that sort of thing, I think, but this had become so personal to my own great surprise that I was not willing to have it re-vamped. And so that was off.

I would be glad to let you try your hand at it, placing it serially, if I had not concluded that it was not serial material, rather a book. It has been in the hands of, I think, three editors who had asked to read it, and all three turned it down, though Harper in the January number uses part of a chapter.

As I say it is too late now to consider serialization, for my publisher, Macmillan, has it in hand and has announced it for Spring.

Believe me, dear Mr. Lengel, I appreciate your interest and would be glad if I had produced serial material, but it simply is not.

With all good wishes for the holidays, believe me

Very sincerely yours

Mr. William C. Lengel
654 Madison Avenue
New York City