

Mem. of Conversation with Mr. Briggs May 18, 1921

Briggs tells me that he has written to the persons controlling the Browning Ms., making them a proposition. His idea is that the owners of the Ms should accept a royalty. He tells me that so far as he knows, they have had but two offers - one to publish the book at their expense, and another, from a historical society, offering them a small sum for the Ms.

He tells me that he and Mr. Wells were quite convinced by my letter of the practicability of going ahead with the thing; that Mr. Wells is glad to have three articles and would like them as soon as possible; says that the articles for the magazine should run probably not under 5000 words, and in the first and second, which is so largely Lincoln, it would be all right to have them a little longer. Asked me if I was willing to undertake it, and told him I would do it for \$1000. He snapped me up quick, think he expected a good deal more. He tells me that they will do the copying and help out in any way possible. The arrangement is that I am to take up the editing as soon as possible, that he will tell Mr. Wells it would not be advisable to begin publication of the articles before January, 1922. All of this is more or less tentative as they have not heard from those controlling the Ms., but he thinks they rather expect a lump sum of two or three thousand dollars. He is to write me as soon as he hears from them.