

December 15, 1922

Mr. H. S. Latham,
The Macmillan Company,
64 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Latham:

I want you to know how much I appreciate your letter of December 9, confirming our conversation in regard to "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns."

I was beginning to feel that there was nothing else for me to do, under the circumstances, but to turn the book - if there should be one - over to Harpers; and this I was unwilling to do unless the Macmillan Company agreed with me. The fair and kind way in which you listened to me, and the fair and kind way in which you have written me, confirm me in my feeling that the last thing I should want to do would be anything that would disturb our friendly relations.

I am quoting to Mr. Briggs of Harpers, with whom I have had my conversations, what you say and telling him that if there should be a book, as they seem to feel there will be, that it can go to them.

I hope you will tell Mr. Brett when you have a chance how much I appreciate his attitude.

And now as to the revised Life of Lincoln. I shall do it, dear Mr. Latham, surely, if I hold out long enough. I cannot, without a little further consideration, promise it for 1925. I think I shall have to see how this work goes. I know already that it is confirming my desire to rewrite the Life. It is the time that perplexes. All I can say at the moment is that I should like to try to get it ready, say for the fall of 1925, and will do so if I can.

As to putting the two volumes into one, dropping the appendix, I suppose, I think myself that there might be a good sale for such a book. If you can do that and at the same time keep the two volumes Life, I should be willing to take the 10% royalty - on the one volume, not on the two. Do you think you can keep both of them going?

As to the Tariff and the revision of the Standard Oil, we can take that up later when I see my way a little clearer.

With repeated thanks for your friendliness, believe me,
Sincerely yours,