The dinner held at the Town Hall, May 7, 1938 was intended to arouse Chautauqua followers to the peril that the parent Institution is in. I was asked to speak as one of the pioneer days and the notes of what I said - very informally, very inadequately - are attached. They had these I think the bones of what I want to put into the autobiography. First, the early day. Then that serious thing that I absolutely have no recollections of the camp meeting - very curious to me. When I think of the fact that of the Bible coming to life - something to be developed. And certainly I should give a sketch of Bishop Vincent as I remember him and not forget the relation of this whole enterprise of Lewis Miller. Mrs. Edison was there last night and I am conscience striken today that I did not even mention Lewis Miller in talking. It is a fact that he is a vaguest kind of a figure in my mind. Nevertheless, he was very important and according to Leon Vincent it was he who persuaded Bishop Vincent to go to Chautauqua rather against his will. The Bishop was not one to take kindly to roughing it.

I think I said something which pleased George. I was surprised to find how pleasant it is to meet George. I sat beside him last night - he was the toastmaster - and I hope he had as good a time as I did. A sense of friendliness and companionship and I think he was quite sincere when he said afterwards, "I wish I saw you oftener." I never dreamed of feeling so at home with him as I did last evening.
What I intended to get at was the sense that Bishop Vincent had of this deep defeat in the lives of tens of thousands of Americans of that period. They hadn't gone to College; that is they had missed the way of knowledge. Father had it; he had it strongly. Mother had it, although they expressed it very differently. One realized that if he had gone to College he would not have known what was going on in the minds of these people and it was through it was a bit of salvation in it. Here is the way of life. It turned out exactly that. And all that work in Chautauqua where I came in came out of the effort to make the way of life open, more attractive, more walkable.

Those notes were a realization on the fact that they had no help, no books and you may laugh about pronouncing, etc., and George was amusing about it last night. Nevertheless, it was a help and they were thankful for it.

I learned last night that Mr. Bestor's son is collecting at Yale a full documentary history of Chautauqua, that he has the files of the Sunday Herald and the Chautauquan, etc. This I must look up, probably it might be my best source, but I suppose they must have these things at Chautauqua. At all events I can see an important chapter.

One thing that Chancellor Chase emphasized last night is which was really important is, that there is less adult education than the realization that education does not stop, ever stop, with college or anywhere else, that it is a continuous process, and that because you got out of school - of course that feeling was very strong
with me at that time. Chautauqua employee at

For the emotional side there is something in Zona Gale’s article attached that is worth considering.

Leon Vincent is always a little confused. It is a failure of ignorance - I think I said something to that effect last night. It is the failure to understand. I think I said last night that when I heard people smiling at Chautauqua that I always felt they should be pitied for their ignorance, that they had not grasped what he meant. As far as I was concerned I was proud that I was proud I had been connected with the movement.