

September 24, 1923

Mr. Arthur C. Coit,
2443 Prospect Avenue,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Coit:

Your letter of September 7 took me by surprise. I had no idea that you were thinking of retiring. I suppose it's your health that has made this imperative; and if that is true, I am glad that you are doing it, though I shall have the feeling that something personal and valuable has gone out of this business into which you and Mr. Alber had the rashness to entice me seven or eight years ago.

I remember with very real gratitude, dear Mr. Coit, and also a little amusement that first lecture of mine at Niles, Ohio, in the summer of 1916. If you ever had a greener lecturer than I was or one more scared by what she had undertaken, I am sorry for him and for you. And you were so kind. You did not by word or look intimate that here was somebody that didn't know the ABC's of the business into which she had gone. But I knew it - knew it down to the bottom, and it was sheer bravado that kept me from running away that night.

I suppose that I shall go on doing a little platform work if Mr. Alber and his associates continue to find a few engagements for me. I would give a lot to do another Chautauqua Circuit, but I know that is too much for my strength. I never did anything in my life which interested me more, and, on the whole, which had been more consoling to me; and I have you largely to thank for that experience.

Whatever you do, dear Mr. Coit, believe me, you have my very best wishes. Please remember me kindly to Mrs. Coit.

Very sincerely yours,