

January 3, 1941

Board of Directors
Pen and Brush Club
New York, N. Y.

Dear Fellow Members:

I have your letter of December 26th saying, that after discussing my recent letter to you saying that I felt that you should get a new President, you unanimously decided that it would be better for the Club if I consent to go on, and that you propose to put that decision before the nominating committee.

I need not rehearse my reasons for feeling that you ought to get a new President. You have all known them for some time, and they have more weight behind them now than ever before. I cannot give the Club what it needs. What I can give it you all know I shall continue to give whether in office or out.

At this moment there is just one reason and that I confess has a good deal of weight with me for my continuing as the nominal President that I am. In the present unsettled state of national and international affairs, conditions that affect every one of us and that make for uncertainty in all affairs, I am convinced that there should be as little a change in the management and ambitions of established institutions as is practical. All steady social and cultural undertakings such as the Pen and Brush should be kept as far as possible intact, not subject to any changes that necessarily make for difference of opinion, enforce new methods and throw doubt on old ones.

The Pen and Brush, like the churches and schools, the district nurses, all kinds of things we are accustomed and out of which we make a better community life. Its very important in my judgment that these be kept steady, serve their purpose for in serving their purpose they keep that background, those established things which we are struggling to defend.

I am willing to go on with the Pen and Brush, if on serious consideration, you feel there will be

W. W. Brown

less chance of disorganization and uncertainty
if I go on than if I drop out.

You know what it means for those who have signed
this letter and for those who feel as you do in
the Club. It means responsibility and work. I
have been deeply touched by the loyalty and the
efforts, not only to keep things going but to build
them up along those lines in which I have always
been interested. I feel that the Pen and Brush is
a better Club than it ever was before, that it has
greater promise in it. I want to do nothing to dis-
turb the condition, but as you know I doubt very much
my ability to contribute much in the future. So,
my dear friends, I leave it to you.

Very sincerely yours,