May 25, 1939

Dear, dear Mrs. Lamar:

I have just come home from five weeks teaching - think of that - in my old College - Allegheny - in Meadville, Pennsylvania. I talked on the writing of biography illustrated by my experiences with Lincoln, and incidentally a good deal of Lincoln as I see him.

That is all to explain why your letter of May 13th has not had an earlier answer. I was so pleased to get it. I am flattered that you have read "All in the Day's Work" and found it interesting enough to go through it without "skipping a word." I never intended to write an autobiography; I stumbled into it as I have into so many things in my life. I had two or three good friends and an editor who believed in it much more than ever I did and it has been a great satisfaction that many friends like yourself have been good enough to read it and to write me.

I should have so much liked to have had a talk with you before I wrote what I did on the Washington experience. You and I think Agnes Nestor were my two mainstays in that Conference. You are right in what you say about Mrs. Catt. I do not think she was interested in the war or the committee. All her activities there had behind them the ~~self-relation~~ calculation of how much they might do for suffrage. I always felt this. Then Mrs. Catt believed so much in mechanism and I so little. With Dr. Anna I felt it was different. She was so human, as passionately devoted to suffrage as Mrs. Catt, more so I think, but it did not absorb her to the exclusion of human relations. I wish we could talk over these things.

I am so sorry to know that you are laid up. Diabetes and anhemia are ugly enemies. The last three years I have suffered a good deal with the latter, also a miserable case of paralysis agitans in my left side which keeps me aching night and day.

right

Graham

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And then I so dislike to see people looking and wondering. However, by going ahead I think much less of it.

Outside of that which the Doctors tell me will be a companion for life I am really getting stronger and better than I have been for at least three years. I had a bad time for a good many months, finally took to two hours of work a day and was practically all of the rest of the time in bed. Very aggravating because I could do so little of what I wanted to do. But to want to do things and resent the fact that you are not able to is certainly something.

You ask what I thought of Mrs. Wilson's book. I thought it very young and amateurish for the most part, but very interesting at the same time. I have not read it carefully but mean to do it. I really am eager to get at the whole Wilson episode, go over it. I am amazed more and more of how I live through things and know so little about them.

I think we are going to pull through in spite of Hitler and Mussolini. The world's problem is to get itself on a basis of give and take. Not so easy. I still pin my faith, so far as I have faith in mechanism, to a reformed League of Nations. I believe the world must come to it, and I rather think that it is working out. I do see some signs, however - the fact that we have kept to a point of having a League. Isn't that a sign that there is something in this demand for world unionism? I think so.

I think I shall have to go down to Atlanta and talk things over with you! I remember how we used to s sit opposite one another for an occasional meal and talk and talk.

Thank you again for your fine letter, Mrs. Lamar. It does perk me up.

With much love

A devoted friend

Mrs. Clarinda P. Lamar
41 Muscogee Road
Atlanta, Georgia

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