

Burlingame

May 5, 1932

Dear Zillah Macdonald:

Your letter reached me
last night too late for an answer.

Of course I am deeply gratified
that you think my talk at the Pen & Brush
last week was sound and important enough to
be repeated before your group of women students
at Columbia. I wish that I were free to give
it to them and to have an opportunity for a
frank discussion, but I am not. This is the
situation:-

The Pen & Brush talk was the
bones of an article which I have written for
Mr. Burton, editor of the Cosmopolitan and
which is to be published next September, I
think. I wanted to test my argument on a
private group where there would be no publicity
as is the case with the Pen & Brush audience.
If they did not accept what I said, pretty
generally, I would feel that there was a weak-
ness in my article and I could correct it.
Your generous letter makes me feel that I have
perhaps done a better piece of work than I
feared.

You see, do you not, that under
the circumstances I have no right to repeat the
talk, that is until after Mr. Burton publishes
his article. Possibly next fall or next winter
if you still see a need of some such talk in
your department I can go to you and I shall have
had then the advantage of whatever criticism
the article may have aroused.

Please believe I would gladly do
what you ask if I were tied.

Faithfully yours

Mrs. Zillah Macdonald
Columbia University
New York City