

January 12, 1921

Mr. H. S. Latham,
The Macmillan Company,
64 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Latham:

Here are a number of things to settle:

First, in regard to the invitation of the Schoolmasters' Club to be their guest of honor at their gathering on February 12 at the Aldine Club. I would like to do it, if it were possible; but I am leaving on the 22nd for a six weeks' speaking trip, which, you see, makes it out of the question. Will you not tell Mr. Richardson that I am sorry, that I should gladly go if I were to be here.

You sent me a few days ago a manuscript by Harriet Abbott, "Doctor, Lawyer, Merchant, Chief - Which Shall She Be?" I have only just had an opportunity to read it.

I find it lively and entertaining. It is superficial, as a thing of this sort must be; but there is no doubt that it would be stimulating and suggestive to girls looking for a place in the business world, and of course that is what it is intended for. I should think that it might have a good sale if it could be handled through the professional and business women's clubs, and advertised in their periodical, "The Independent Woman." It hasn't a very firm grip on the problem, leaves untouched many practical sides; but it is hopeful and illuminating to the class of women that it aims to reach. And I don't know where you could go to get the really superior thing that ought to be done on the subject. I doubt if there is anybody ready to do it as yet, and this book is more useful certainly than many more pretentious attempts might be.

You see, while I am not deeply impressed about the manuscript, I do feel kindly towards it.

You say that Mr. Brett agrees with you that it might be a good idea to put the Lincoln stories together, planning to bring it out next year. Very well, we will settle on that. And I think your suggestion that I write an introduction is a good one. I will do it.

As to the miscellaneous magazine articles, they are going to you today, along with Miss Abbott's manuscript. As I look them

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over, I feel dubious about their being important enough to put in a volume. They are impressions picked up by the roadside, of course. It seems to me that if you should think it worth while putting them in a book, "On the Road" might not be a bad title.

They fall into three sections, as you will see - glimpses of things on my speaking trips; some observations on French women, which would need revision and perhaps condensing; and some things picked up in factories that I have visited. I should be interested at least in knowing how they impress you.

Very truly yours,