

March 31, 1927.

Mrs. George Kennan,
129 West Center Street,
Medina, New York.

My dear Lady:

You are wrong when you say that I am forgetting you, but I plead guilty of having neglected you. The truth is that I have been living for many months under both family and professional pressure and have neglected a lot of things that I did not like to. I was away eight months last year - two months in Florida on a piece of reporting and six months in Italy on another piece of reporting; trying to find out whether their fascinating despot was a good thing for the country or not, and I am still on the fence taking refuge in the safe conclusion that only time will tell.

The fact that I was in Italy was the reason that you did not see me in New York in October. I should mightily have liked to have seen you then. You must be having a very interesting time with Mr. Kennan's papers and collection as well as with the friends who loved him. If you were down the first of March with your friends I was not here but West, so there was another chance for a visit cut off. When are you coming again? There is a chance of my being around pretty steadily now for some time. Only the unexpected, which you know comes only too frequently with me, will take me off.

McClure
You asked if I can tell you from memory if Mr. Kennan went to Russia for McClure's; the trip from which he was turned back and arrested. My recollection is Yes. I know with what excitement he went for that news and how personal it was to us. I suppose that was not only because it was Mr. Kennan but I am sure that he did go for us. I am going to call up Mr. Phillips and find out.

Later. I have done so and he says Yes. He also says that he remembers distinctly the letters that came from Mr. Kennan; part of them in cipher that had been decided on before he left, a cipher which would enable them to communicate to the office his plans. These letters probably have all been destroyed as, when the Magazine finally went out of Mr. McClure's hands my understanding is that the old files were burned.

Mrs. George Kennan

- 2 -

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I should so much like to see you. With all sorts of regret for the delay in replying to this letter, believe me,

Always affectionately,

IMT BNA.