120 East 19 St., New York City

September 7, 1921

My dear Clara Barrus:

Forgive my delay in replying to your letter of August 29. It deserved an immediate answer, but it reached me in the country just as I was packing my bag to come into town, and today is the first chance I have had to dictate any letters.

Far from thinking that your request is a strange one, I think it a natural and wise one, and, as far as I am concerned, a very flattering one.

I shall be most happy if by my promising to serve as one of your literary executors you would go to your coming operation with a freer mind. No doubt you are wise to make sure that Mr. Burroughs' papers and your plans and instructions in regard to them are in the hands of those whom you know to be friendly to your purposes. I have not the least idea but what you will come through your operation with flying colors, and I take it that is your own feeling about it; but there is always the one chance in a thousand of course that something goes wrong in operations, and I have never gone under the knife myself without putting my affairs in order.

It is wise to do what you are doing, and if you feel that I am a proper person to act as one of your literary advisers I will gladly promise to do my level best in case it is necessary, so you can count on me. I should not want to say that I would undertake the work myself in case that you felt it necessary to lay it down. I am not at all sure that I would be the proper person to do that even if I were so situated as to do so; but I should certainly see that it was in sympathetic and competent hands. so, let your mind be at rest on the point of Mr Burroughs' papers. Your fiend and I will certainly take care of them as well as we can and carry out to the letter your own wishes.

But you will pull through - I feel most certain of that. I am sure you will go through your ordeal with all courage and hope. Believe me, you have my full sympathy.

I will be so glad if you will arrange, as you suggest, to have word sent to me as to the outcome of the operation; and I will certainly call on you as soon as I am allowed to.

Affectionately yours,

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