

January 15, '12

My dearest Anne:-

Have you ever thought again of the biography or autobiography of your father of which we talked last spring? I wish it could be done and done now. If it were full and frank and I somehow believe if he would consent to it, it would be full and frank, it would do an enormous amount to clear the air. I cannot think of anything which would help more - really help. It is getting the point of view and clear notions of what really happened that the country needs.

If you think there is the least chance of his consenting we'll find a man satisfactory to him. Grady's Mark Hanna will be ready for examination soon - advance sheets - though I fear C. does not write well enough. There is Rhodes, a great historian, really and formerly a business man. It would take powerful argument and pressure to persuade him but we could try - and the result would be something permanent and of great dignity. There is Norman Hapgood. He would be admirable, if he were free from Collier's and between you and me, I believe a great opportunity like this would free Norman. He has understanding, perspective and writes well. The only question is this - Is it worth my while to get together a series of alternatives, which Mr. Morgan could be asked to consider. What do you think? I dislike to trouble you but I feel as if it ought to be done. I believe it could be done so that it would be an enormous public service.

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Believe me, Dear Anne, always your loving friend

Ida

We can talk this o ver Saturady perhaps if I can arrange to
go with you and Bessie.