October 27, 1923

Mr. William H. Briggs,
Harper & Brothers,
49 East 33 St., New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Briggs:

This is in answer to your letters of October 23 and 24 and to confirm our conversation of the 26th.

I agree to the postponement of the book. Of course such a postponement does give a book something of a black eye in the trade. It takes something of the zest for it out of the publisher, as well. A thing hanging about an office as long as this becomes more or less of a nuisance and all any department wants is to get it out of their way; thay haven't much stomach for proper pushing. That is, I do think that throwing it off until the first of the year - good as your reasons are for doing it - will probably mean that not much will be done for it.

But we will have to stand that, I suppose, unless, forewarned, you rise up and prove me wrong. In which case, this letter will have done its work.

Sincerely yours,

Digital Image, 2009, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library