December 16, 1924

Mrs. John Sherman Hoyt,
900 Park Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Mrs. Hoyt:

I am sorry I have not been able to get earlier to your letter of the 10th. As a matter of fact I have been trying to see a way for me to get to Mr. Wing your generous gift without hurting his pride. I am sorry that it doesn't seem practical to me to do what you suggest, at least without sounding them out.

You see, Mr. Wing has said to me twice that whatever sum I was able to realize for them on whatever I might write, he wanted it invested for Mrs. Wing, that is, he did not want to use any of it now. This rather bars me from carrying out your suggestion. If, however, I had made any definite arrangement with an editor, I would feel free, but that I have not been able to do, nor can it be done until what I write has been placed before him. You see, this material from an editorial standpoint has been rather discredited. I find that it has been in various offices and refused because of the condition it was in and the doubt of editors that it could be made available. I have talked it over with the wisest editorial consultant that I have, who advises me that until my work is done I better say nothing about it to any publisher. I am convinced this is true. It will all depend upon what I can make of it. The freshness of the material has been destroyed by the traveling about of the manuscript and by the various short articles that have been written and published.

As I told you last summer, I came to this matter overloaded with work and contracts enough to fill the next three or four years. I have given it every spare moment I have had but these spare moments have been shortened by illness in my family and by a broken arm of my own. I shall do the work just as quickly as I can, dear Mrs. Hoyt. Nobody is more anxious than I am to see it completed and I really hope to get through with it within the next six weeks, though of this I cannot be certain.

I shall try to see the Wings during Christmas week and get a chance for a confidential talk with Mrs. Wing who, I think, would be franker than he. He is really very feeble. I think she

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would tell me pretty nearly what their situation is, and then I would be in a position to suggest to her that I make an advance, and I will do that myself. As things stand now I would not, as I said, feel like attempting to carry out your generous suggestions lest I hurt their fine pride. Nor do I think of any other way of getting money to them.

I was at their Bethel place three weeks ago and found them very comfortable - a thoroughly comfortable house, with what is a great relief to Mrs. Wing, somebody below in case of one of his sudden attacks. After I have seen them in Christmas week, possibly we can get together and talk the matter over, at least I will call up. Would that be convenient for you?

Sincerely yours,

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