December 14, 1922

Mr. William H. Briggs,
Harper & Brothers,
Franklin Square,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Briggs:

Thank you for your letter, confirming our talk yesterday regarding "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns."

As I told you, I am free from any obligation to my regular publishers, the Macmillan Company. I talked to Mr. Latham, as I told you, he in turn with Mr Brett; and I have just received a letter in which they say:

> "We appreciate the position in which you are placed with reference to the publication of "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns," and do not see that there is anything that you can do but to give the book rights in this to Harpers, if there should be a book in it. We are of course sorry not to have the privilege of publishing it, but have no criticism to make of your handling of the matter, and in fact appreciate deeply the friendly spirit with which you have put the problem before us."

I call that fine.

Since I am free, I shall be very glad to have you publish whatever book or books may come out of the work I am doing for the McClure Newspaper Syndicate. As I told you yesterday, I do not at the moment see clearly what that will be; but I do believe that it will be something. When the work has developed a little further, we will talk it over again, settling the terms and the dates of publication. That seems to be all that I can say now.

As to the magazine articles, that, too, is a matter of a later date. I could do little or nothing with them until the Syndicate articles are off my hands; but I shall of course be glad to talk with Mr Wells at any time.

With all good wishes, believe me

Very sincerely yours,

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