

120 East Nineteenth Street
New York City

January 23, 1923

Mr. Ashley H. Thorndike,
Columbia University,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Thorndike:

I have your letter of January 17, with the outline of a series of books on Civilization in the United States, which you are doing.

It certainly is a captivating outline, and I would like nothing better than to have to do the work of writing the whole series! I am afraid, however, that it is a question whether I can have the pleasure of doing even one volume. It is not so much the return, but finding the time.

It might be possible for me to undertake Volume IX on Big Business. Would it be against your rules to allow the serial publication of at least a portion of the manuscript? If the editors of the series were willing, I think I could arrange with MacMillans. I have been hoping for some time to bring my history of the Standard Oil Co. up to date, and the work I should do for that would be helpful in your Volume IX.

Please let me know what your rules are about serial publication. Also if you must have the manuscript in 1925. I will think it over, then, and talk it over with the MacMillan people.

Whether I have the advantage of doing a book or not, I am glad that you think I am fit to do it.

Sincerely yours,