

July 2, 1923.

Mr. John Parker,
9th & Sanson Sts.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Mr. Parker:

I was pleased to know that you made it possible to say that my efficiency at one time at least was 100% in the Philadelphia Public Library!

Also I am glad that you wrote me the long letter. I found it very interesting. I certainly agree with you about Dr. Robinson's "Seven Greatest Americans". To leave Washington out seems to me an utter misunderstanding of the man's work and meaning in our democratic experiment. I suppose whether you consider Mr. Rockefeller our greatest business man depends upon your notion of greatness. That he is our greatest predatory competitor is unquestionable, also our most successful acquirer of special privileges. Very interesting. Certainly Dr. Robinson has set us all to thinking, for which we ought to thank him.

Now as to your suggestion about using the Standard Oil Company History. If you are serious about it I think it might be well for me to see the Macmillans first. I think I should secure their permission, and having the permission then we could talk about royalty. If you were to put it into four books, as you say, then we could add another volume, when I am able to bring it up to date, as I hope soon to do. As soon as I hear from you as to whether you want to go ahead with this, I will see them.

As to a Life of Washington, I could not possibly do it now, but I have under consideration a proposition to undertake it, to be published in 1932, the two hundredth birthday, as you know; but this would mean a book for Macmillans, I think, according to the present plan. I have not definitely concluded, however, to undertake the work as I already have a good deal on hand.

You suggest that I join in a movement for coöperative authorship. My publishing contracts are such that I am not at liberty to do that at present.

Let me know if you wish me to speak to the Macmillans about the Standard Oil.

Sincerely yours,