

Nov 2, '35.

Dear I.M. T.

Here is your copy messed up badly, but that is not for lack of care, it is because I am a hopeless clerk. I have been over all my notes twice, and if I look fussy it is because I have an ever deepening conviction of the value of good, idiomatic sentence construction, and if they do not talk of idiom in that connection they should . because you have such a lot to crowd into every sentence I found a lot of them arresting me with some sense of unease-- and that such bother was only for the tenth of a second does not keep it from being undesirable. Certainly you would have worked out the trouble many times yourself, you had checked various ones for attention; but it is so pleasant to me if I can save you trouble of that kind-- and sometimes one spends so much time just on the problem of getting in a qualifying phrase without dissevering subject and predicate too far;-- I find it very jolting to have to hitch a verb onto a forgotten subject noun . I am reading Loyd George's memoirs , and how well he does write, in the most unpretentious way, but every sentence falling as limpid and natural as little Tommy's plea for a cookie. I wonder if you have looked at them-- I seem to want someone to sympathize with my amaze at the stupidity of the English War office much as I had heard about it; George proves his case as to having won the war with his amunitions by ~~the~~ actual correspondence that is beyond belief.

But it is your book I want to be talking about, for it is going to be an immortal. There is nothing but these trivialities that I have to cavil about-- and a spot or two where I have begged (with humility if I am wrong) for a slight expansion. You were a most extraordinary

woman child. I suppose the omission of dolly talk is merely significant, but I wonder if to the outside reader the silence as to the child's feelings about little brother and sister is not very misleading? After all what your mind was awake to is not any more revelatory in the way your book must aim at than what your emotions were doing in those childhood years. A very little, a passage; might change a certain color that does not seem true, tho of course there is talk of your father and mother that corrects the impression of mentality to a certain extent; but the little brother and sister?

Don't pay any attention to this spiel if it means nothing illuminating to you.

And don't view my writing in the light of my views about sentence construction, for it is sure to outrage them so I am not going to read this over.

How kind of you to write the letters I got today. There is no question as to Jean's wanting to see Pearl Buck anytime she can-- I know that. She was speaking of her when she was here.

While you are at the Farm do read ~~The~~ Arrow of Gold-- Conrad

Faithfully and Fondly,

Viola R--