August 19, 1924

Mr A. M. Schlesinger,
276 Widener Library,
Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Mr. Schlesinger:

I feel very guilty about the volume that I promised to do for the "History of Civilization in the United States." I have done almost nothing about it. I think I told you that I was committed already to two - it has turned out to be three - pieces of pretty stiff work. One of them is at least partly off my hands - the Lincoln work - the others are still in the period of investigation. What I have done on my volume of Big Business is really incidental though I might say that the two pieces of work on which I am now laboring deal with Big Business - recent history of the Standard Oil Company and a study involving the making and conducting of the Steel Corporation.

As I am situated now I simply cannot make a date for the volume in your series, and I have the feeling that it is not fair to you to delay so long. If, under the circumstances, dear Mr. Schlesinger, you would prefer to find somebody else who will not be forced to put off the work as late as I shall, I feel that I ought to release you, much as I should love to do the volume and honored as I should be to find myself under such auspices and in such excellent company.

If you are coming through New York on your way back to Iowa I should like very much to have the advantage of a little talk with you. I feel that you ought to have a date set for the volume and I cannot now make one.

Sincerely yours,

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