

January 11, 1929

Professor A. M. Schlesinger
415 Widener Library
Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Professor Schlesinger:

I am glad to get your letter of January 3. I should have answered it at once but that I have been out of commission, down with the influenza and only just beginning to attend to something besides my aching bones and my beastly cough.

You have been most considerate in the matter of the volume which I promised for the American Civilization series. I have been really humiliated by my inability to deliver the manuscript in anything like what I considered a reasonable time; but I have not been my own mistress in the matter. Primarily because I earn my living by journalism, as you know, and in that trade we must take what comes to us or give it up, and the demands on me have been of such a nature in the last two years and the necessity of meeting them has been such that I have had but little time to give to this volume, though I have kept it always in mind and have been constantly feeding it.

I recently had a very interesting experience with the material, giving a six weeks' series of conferences, 24 in all, to a selected group of students at Knox College, Ill. They were not as well prepared for the conferences as I had supposed they would be, but it was not a bad thing for the book for me to do the work, and, naturally, it led me to material and to reflections that I think I probably could not have reached in any other way. The work was not so thorough, but it was illuminating, at least to me.

What I am trying to arrange now, dear Professor Schlesinger, is to get six or eight months, as uninterrupted as possible, to dictate the manuscript; and then, on the basis of that, to do the more thorough investigation and treatment.

The weakness of the scheme from the start has seemed to me to be the weakness in most undertakings of this kind into which I have looked, and that is that the books would be too episodical, too much a catalogue of events and facts, too little recognition of a dominating influence. I don't know how I shall come out - that

will be for you and Professor Fox to say; but you can be quite sure that when I am ready, as I hope to be by fall or winter, with something to show you, I will be most amenable.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope that this letter may relieve in a way the anxiety that I realize I must have been to you and to Professor Fox. Be sure that I shall be glad of of suggestions at any time from either of you.

Sincerely yours