September 29, 1936

My dear Mr. Franklin:

I am right in thinking, am I not, that back as far as 1904 and '05 you were a contributing editor on the New York Nation. If so, do you remember a review of a book of mine called The History of the Standard Oil Company? You may remember the work - it had a rather excited reception. The review to which I refer was published on January 5, 1905. It was able and the only hostile review which really counted.

Now what I am after is this - who wrote the review? President Elliot was charged with it. I do not think that is correct though I think he had sympathy with it. By any chance did you, yourself, write it, dear Mr. Franklin? It is a little less restrained than I have usually found you. But the argument in the main is what I think yours would be and the style is you at your scorching best.

I would not be asking this question if it were not for the fact that soon after the review appeared there was mailed out from New York City tens of thousands of copies - nobody's compliments, the only legend "Reprinted from The Nation of January 5, 1905 by permission." There is no doubt I suppose that it was the Standard Oil Company who paid for the printing and the distribution.

For some time after the distribution my daily mail was sprinkled with copies from irate or sympathetic clergymen, librarians, men of business, from all parts of the country.

I was pretty well fed up at that time on the Standard Oil Company and I did not take means to find out who had written the review. But I am setting down some recollections at the present moment

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and I would like to know if you can tell me anything of the matter. It is important to me as this review was the only thing in the way of an answer that has ever come from the Standard Oil Company which seemed to me to deserve very serious attention.

I am sure you will pardon my writing this letter. And whether you or somebody else wrote the review I am sure you will realize I have for you, dear Mr. Franklin, only warm regard. I have never been able to hate people with whom I do not agree even when they call me hard names as The Nation reviewer did.

Very sincerely

Mr. Fabian Franklin
817 Riverside Drive
New York City

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