Dec. 5, 1923

Jerome Walker, M. D.,
258 Argyle Road,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Walker:

I am sorry indeed that you had to remind me that I had so long neglected your letter. I have been terribly driven for some weeks, out of town a good deal, and have been putting off everything that did not require an immediate reply - even at the risk of seeming discourteous, as I fear that I have to you.

I was much interested in your account of your visit to Horse-Head, Md., and, too, in your suggestion that I use the historical background you analyzed for the scene of an historical novel. I am afraid that would be out of the question for me, dear Dr. Walker. In the first place, I am not a novelist; and in the second place, even if I attempted to try my hand at it, it would be impossible as I am tied up months and months ahead with work that I have promised to do. So, you see, that will have to be just one of the pleasant dreams of things that could be done which I suppose every writer entertains.

I wish that I saw some way to help you with your manuscript, but I do not. I have spoken to several friends interested in the publishing business, but no one seems disposed to consider it. As a matter of fact it is a difficult time to get the historical book published. Maybe, in revised form, however, I shall be able to make a practical suggestion. At all events, I shall be very glad to look over your manuscript again, and do it as soon as I can. I am afraid that will not be until after Christmas as I am much pressed now and am going out of town.

I want to say that what you wrote me of Horse-Head has made me very eager to go over the ground myself, not for the purpose which you suggest but just for picking up what I could on the ground about the Mudds and Booth. It is a curious fairy tale that you report about the Wilson lecture. I never heard of this before, and I should be amazed if it is true that a body claiming to be that of Booth is now on exhibition anywhere in the country. I am going to look into it.

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Thank you for your interesting letter. Send me your manuscript and I will try to read it while I am on my Christmas vacation, I can hardly get to it before.

Very sincerely yours,

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