

December 12, 1935

Dearest Ada:

I have not forgotten my promise to let you see the first chapter of my Recollections, but there has been a rather discouraging development regarding it. I had a contract with the Pictorial Review - 90,000 words - at a very good price. When the contract was made it was my understanding, and I think the editors intention, to make a high-class serious journal of the P R which was just that but which has fallen in weak and slovenly ways in the last few years. They started out well, but found they were flying too high for the newstands and have come down - way down. They were willing to keep the contract if I would consent to their re-writing the material - professionalizing it I think. I promptly said, "I couldn't do that." I couldn't and after some pulling and hauling I have the chapter back. Now I am going to keep my promise to you and send it on in a day or two. Tell me how it strikes you. In the meantime I shall be looking for another serial placing. There is no doubt but that Macmillan will publish the book. The editor there who has read the first chapter seems to be keener for it than I had anticipated.

One of my chief regrets in having this fall through is that I can't be sending you back the money which you put on my desk last Fall. How did you know I needed it? Well, it has been carrying me on without any comments at the Bank and without my letting my living expenses fall behind. I am going ahead with Christmas as usual and I have work to fill in, so don't worry. I'll be all right financially although it is annoying to have to restore myself, stop just as I seemed to be getting under way. However, that continually happens in my muddled life and I have learned to take it easy. To do anything else would be to put me still further back.

finance

with the
Recollections

Things are going briskly here. The Pen & Brush had its Art Exhibition and your prize money went to a woman whom we all regard as our most promising member - Gertrude Nathan. She has been hampered by poverty, but she'll make it however for she's young - a joyous worker and has the nicest kind of a husband. This prize money is a godsend to her. All the conservative painters at the Club back her up with praise and encouragement. So you see what you did there - although at your own request got no credit for it - has been a real help in developing what I believe is a more than usual talent.

Mrs. Fred McCormick
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Tucson, Arizona