October 2, 1931

My dear Miss Schreiber:

It is pleasant to hear from you and to know that you are so near and to have a reminder that my month of work at Bucknell is still remembered by one of my class.

Of course I am glad to give you any counsel I can about your manuscript. But, dear Miss Schreiber, you must not think so poorly of publishers, that is, of any of the accredited ones. If they were in the habit of appropriating the materials submitted to them they would not long live. They are on the whole as honorable a body of men and women as do business in the world.

I never have copyrighted a book or an article - I have always left that to the publisher. I believe the manuscript has to be put into type before the Copyright Bureau considers it, that is, they must know that it is something that is to appear. But you also can arrange with the publisher, if you wish, to have the copyright in your name; if he thinks well enough of the story I think this can be done, though I have never tried to do it myself.

Most things in this world, dear Miss Schreiber, have to be done on faith - the world could not last long if we did not trust our fellow men. Of course we sometimes, to often indeed, have proof of abuse of confidence but taking the publishing business by and large there is little danger.

The first thing for you is to find out whether any publisher wants your novel, that is, is willing to risk his money for publication. If I were in your place I would begin submitting.

If I can be of any further assistance I shall be glad; and I shall be glad, too, to know how you succeed with your manuscript, that is, if you find anyone who is willing to publish it.

Very sincerely yours

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