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December 4th, 1908.

Mr. F. N. Doubleday,

Doubleday, Page & Co.,

New York.

Dear Mr. Doubleday:

Thank you for your letter of December 3rd. I was just about to write you. I did not mean to give Mr. Lanier, in my talk with him last week, exactly the impression which you seem to have gotten from him. But I don't know that it is necessary for us to discuss that. I have done as I promised him, thought the matter over carefully, and I am sorry to say that I cannot see it any differently from what I did. The idea of our entering into the relationship of publisher and author, under the circumstances, seems to me too humorous and inappropriate to be discussed; and since I feel this, whether it is wise or unwise, I want you, my dear Mr. Doubleday, to accept my decision. Of course you know there is nothing personal in it. It is simply a curious and utterly unforeseen train of circumstances. Since I do feel as I do, it is a relief to me to have you say, as you do in this letter, that you would be unwilling to publish my books if I would not be entirely happy in your company.

I believe that according to my contract, two of my books, "The Life of Lincoln" and "He Knew Lincoln" are not transferrable without my permission. I will take up the matter of their disposition with Mr. McClure. As for the other three, can we not get at some amicable appraisal? How would it do to ask somebody to appraise their value - that is, if you will appoint one person, I will another, and the two can select a third to get at some reasonable valuation? Kindly let me know if this strikes you as feasible and proper.

Very truly yours,

Edw. M. Tarbell