October 1, 1938

Dear Mr. Maxwell:

It would be a gratification for me if there was anything in the Recollections I am writing which would be suitable for The New Yorker, but I doubt it. Your inquiry jarred me into a realization that although I had been working in New York City mainly for forty years, I had scarcely said a word in what I have written about New York. You see I am talking about my work (All in the Day's Work is my title) and I am quite sure there is none of that that would do for your pages.

However, there are things in my mind that I might try to get out if Mrs. White thought they would be of any use.

There is New York when I first saw it when I was ten - a country girl - Barnum's Museum - the Astor House, etc., etc.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

There is the New York of the nineties when I first came here to live and work, and certain things of interest ever since. But I do not believe it would be worth Mrs. White's while to commission me to undertake the work. Of course if she would like to see the manuscript of the Recollections and judge for herself that could be arranged.

Very sincerely yours

Mr. William Maxwell
25 West 43rd Street
New York City

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