

NEW YORK
Herald Tribune

January 7, 1931

My dear Miss Ida:

Missy and Mr. Field were enthusiastic about the article on Mr. Tracy as I outlined it to them after my luncheon with you, and we planned it for the issue of February 8th. Then I called Mr. Hertz for an interview and learned from him, to my consternation, that the letters he is publishing in book form with comments from him on them are running in the "Times Magazine" in a series of eight articles beginning February 8th. If we ran this group of twelve or fourteen letters with a very interesting story of how they were collected and how they are at last achieving publication in Mr. Hertz's book, our interview with you, instead of standing on its own merits, would therefore serve simply as promotion for the "Times" series, and twelve or so letters would, we feel, look rather insignificant beside the long series which will be run in the "Times".

This information agonized me terribly because I was very much interested in the story as you outlined it to me. It seemed to me full of charm. Missy and Mr. Field, though, felt that to run it under the circumstances would not be good journalism, and I am, therefore, with great regret returning the letters to Mr. Reynolds at once so that he can offer them elsewhere without delay.

It was sweet of you to give me so much time and no one regrets more than I do that it has come to nothing.

Affectionately yours,

May Day

P.S. I am returning under separate cover the book and material which you so kindly let me have.