

Loudon Farm
Katonah, New York

August 26--- or it MIGHT
be the 27th

Dear Claude:

Thank you for the check for seventy dollars.

It now looks as though I may not go to Japan. The trip was planned for the purpose of getting certain material for my next book, and at the present moment it looks like rather as if I could get along without it. I think that if it were possible for you to get away easily and go with me, I'd go without question. But I realize that between leaving Mary and the girls for several months on the one hand, and getting a really good surgeon for locum tenens on the other, it is not very likely that you would be able to go.

That matter is not yet quite decided; I'm talking it over with Harcourt, Grace, and myself. Have you any idea on the matter? Do you really think that there's much of a chance that you could get away for four months?

If I don't go to Japan, I'll be sort of cruising all over the country all winter, and I'll probably see you several times.

I'm so glad that you will have had Siegfried as your guest, and I hope that you will have found him interesting. He is probably an important, or certainly as learned, a guest as St. Cloud will ever have. In Paris he is regarded with the greatest respect by all historians, economists, and politicians. He could be cabinet minister any time he wanted to. Do write me about how you liked him.....and when Mary and you get ready to go to Paris, you will have in him a man who will be able to take you into the Pasteur Institute or show you anything else you want in that fascinating city.

I haven't yet heard from Exeter about the room for Freeman. I'm writing 'em this morning, to touch 'em up. Grace and I plan to motor Freeman up there, to give him a glimpse of old New England, and to be of any service we can be, BUT not in any way to interfere with his own plans. You haven't yet written me regarding the matter of clothes. Shall I help him get evening clothes and perhaps some tweeds in N.Y.? Has he golf sticks of his own? Now that he has started the game, he may as well keep it up. It is no longer, Thank heaven, simply a rich man's game.

I'm just finishing the first draft of a serial, for which I hope to sting some magazine for from twenty-five thousand to fifty thousand dollars. If I do, it will take care of finances for a couple of years to come and enable me to go on investing a few thousand yearly in gilt-edged bonds.

Let me know P.D.Q. about your chances of going to Japan. I'm afraid it's off, for this year. But if you could positively go, I think I'd be along. I had a long talk with my neighbor, Ramsay Hunt, the neurologist, and he said that the chances were against your being able to get any really good surgeon to take your place for just a few months.

Ever,
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