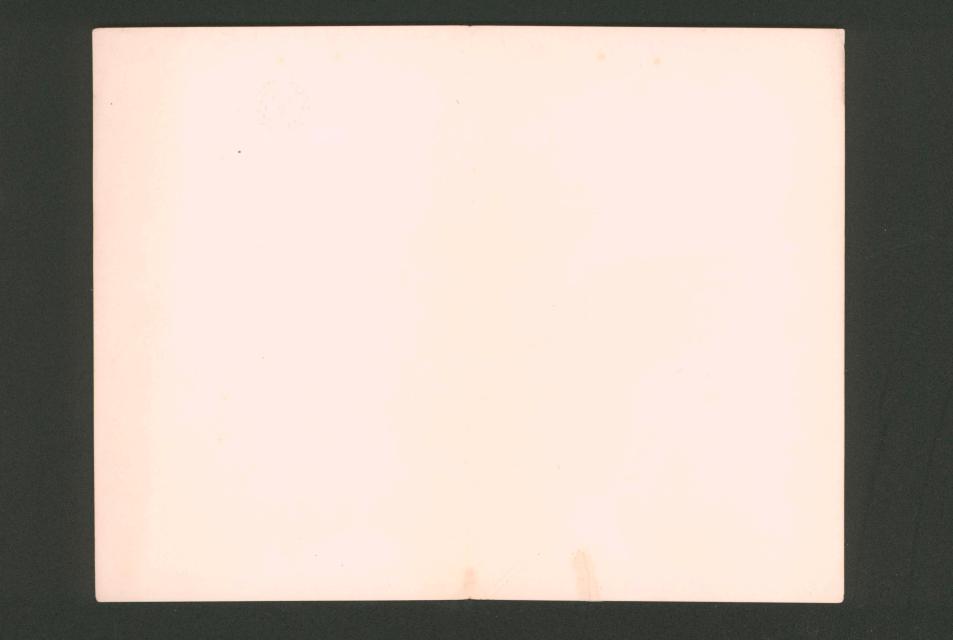
Too Mrs. Paul L. Dunbar



May 27th. 1901

Dear Mrs. Dunbar:

I wish you to make sure that the long delay in sending you a final word about "The Confessions of a Lazy Woman" has been caused by a most earnest wish on our part to make you a proposition to publish it. There has not been a manuscript in our hands for a long time that has provoked a more earnest wish on our part to accept. nor has there been one that has presented greater practical difficulties. The situation in a nut-shell is this: You have written a very interesting series of papers indeed, and they belong together, and they ought to be published together as a book.

Of course it is true, also, that you will be able without difficulty to find a publisher to bring it out for you, and I hope and think that some one may be able to make a financial success of it.

But we are afraid that we should not meet your expectations in making a practical success of it. It is for this reason alone that we think we will serve you best by letting you go to some other publishing house.

There have been times and conditions in

the publishing world (and no doubt such times and conditions will come again) when we should not have had a moment's hesitation in accepting this book -- indeed, we should have accepted it with gratitide and with great hope. But for the last year and a half, the book market has been so overcorwded that it is now, at least, practically impossible to get the public's attention with any book that does not have either some permanent claim to attention by reason of its scientific value, or does not have some accidental or sensational claim upon the fickle attention of the multitude. Our policy is to publish as few books as possible, and to make sure that every book that we put on our list shall. yield at least a satisfactory return to the author. We are finding, however, that quiet, good books (the class to which yours belongs) during the present overcrowding of the book market present pretty nearly insuperable difficulties. Heaven only knows how long these conditions are going to last; but one of two things must be done -- either fewer books must be published. or the machinery for the distribution and sde of books must be in some way enlarged. We are using all out ingenuity and influence to accomplish both these purposes, and we hope to see conditions brought about before long which will give quiet, dignified, normal books their opportunity.

May 27th, 1901

Dear igns. Bundar:

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2 -- Mrs. Dunber ed deliberran alds mades av Jero atte il amter but, bise evan I mains I ass yeth mosen hi . sud : server we serve you better than we should serve you li ve brought it out, and did not success in asking a grades ni become ·21 njiv I wish you would say to the Dunber ber men I enjoyed neering bis page at Timkegee, and I was sorry that I did not have an opportunity to talk with him. Believe me, with sincers regards for you buth. very unity yours. Mrs. Paul Laurence Donous SEL Sprune St., N. W. and the grown D. C.

to li mursing so much. Pane (1) 507/ My dear Hatles poely letter had a lette form Risie say ing the grandwother and defad. Dynhachers with you in going this all the by grapheneal scenes. It came while my beloved one makes me shuddle for I or been to so many finereals was gone again, this time to I dear ener. I shall take you Thehmend and Velersburg, Va. For returned from Chicago advice and not was out my wonderful voice any man last funday, the 2d, slayed I for thinking I going to Paris with bleaday, ment away and studyff under muse and returned the fact Marchasi. faturday. He is in reality a Do I know Mayou devis? Wall bird of passage. Homer, he I lived in Breton once, you Know And say she cloped is home again and selling Contentedy mear me rading last rived with a Bestin Fel. after a supper of much 1 low, Charlie Richardson with when she used to po, Las been spring with for years. Palerfains onions, as usual. I know what a great alvain objected to the hualch, and I'm it must hand brown you

entheredaid, has film his blearing of a see. How might friend munder the a when the piece - new the day of a when him hand to my had so well from and substituted the tank of sience that I of cold in an ing the mind that I of cold in an and foreign that I of cold in any and the said their news and some thing them. quite a friend ship and she has bed me lots about you. the is crazy to have por come up to Washington this ourme and p to Buffalo. I week & could have you when I go to hen fork next much or the work after. Maybe we wouldn't brima little red fire! The you Thinking of coming with this summer? No news here. ast work the High Lehool Fald its annual diel which is always an occasion. They restractly have the boss bull grounds and from 10,000 to 15,000 of aunt Hamado Children humont to mod enchusiactically for

New York, July 27, 1900.

Mrs. Paul Laurence Dunbar,
West Medford, Mass.

My dear Mrs. Dunbar:

I offered your manuscript, "The Confessions of a Lazy Woman" to Mr. Phillips, the manager of McClures. He read it and after considering it decided he did not want it. Although I had gone over it when I first received it from you, since it came back from McClures I have taken the time to go over it more carefully. I think it best frankly to write you my opinion about the story. What I say is, of course, only my opinion, and it may be wrong, but I feel that you are the kind of person who would be willing to let me say the truth to you, even if it is only my truth and perhaps not the absolute truth.

I think in the first place that the story is too short. In my experience most publishers like a book of 100,000 words; if they can't get 100,000 they will take 75,000, and if they can't get 75,000 they will take 60,000. In fact they will take any length if the book justifies it, but the fact remains that they want to sell the book for \$1.50 and they cannot ask that for a book unless it is a certain size. If they try to sell it for \$.75 or \$1.00 there is less profit for the bookseller in its sale, and they are apt to push the \$1.50 books, on which they make a considerable profit, and let the books that cost \$.75 grow dusty on the top shelf. Like all the world, in the matter of business

New York, 1900.

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PAUL R. REYNOLDS,

New York, July 27, 1900.

2.

they are selfish and press on their customers the books which will make them the most profit. When I said this to Mr. Dunbar he told me that one of the most successful of his books had been a book of not more than 40,000 words. I can only reply to that, that if so, it was successful in spite of its being 40,000, and that it probably would have been more successful if it had been longer and equally good.

Secondly, I do not think people like stories as a rule that are told in the form of a diary. You can at once quote me exceptions to that rule, but I think the rule still remains in spite of the exceptions, and I think that most of the successful diaries have been actual diaries, not fictitious ones.

Thirdly, I don't think there is quite enough action or quite enough culmination in your diary to make it attract wide attention. Your heroine has a child and the sense of this new obligation turns her from a lazy woman into an active one, and so up the diary ends. It ought to lead to more of a climax, it ought to have more action and perhaps more plot. The idea of a lazy woman who laughs at her neighbors and the rest of the world for their anxiety to accomplish their work, clean their houses, accumulate money or what not, is an amusing conception, and your heroine makes a number of observations which are very cute and very humorous often. But I think after the reader is once familiar with the conception there is a certain monotony about it. Like

New York, 1900.

reconf . We as all the limits . After those the set many given Illy that it so, it was successful to selte of the 100,000 and afirm a sa safanta citi atgos; fill torono i , filmons encess tong the first rate, was I stabill one of the property of discreasing dependent ciaries, and ricilians area. To notion to more with a state the T and T and are the shirt to out the the same of training of an interest training of the contract training of the co colington transport of the form of the second transport of the second party of the plant words. It begins to have the bear of them, it bought for thair canicar to accomplish their work, cann their houses, sociations some, of that is, is as as a discontinuous sour Tree bas elso, ter ex later and therease to reduce a asian colored newcome often a training after the concernant are will .il throw a parametric track of all sacrations and a some content it. Paul R. Reynolds, No. 70 FIFTH AVENUE.

New York, July 27, 1902.

3.

Oliver Twist, he asks for more.

I doubt, therefore, my ability to sell this book. I am offering it to a house, but should they decline it, I think I shall send it back to you. I must again repeat that this is only my opinion based on my judgment, and my judgment is often faulty. I daresay you will find, and I hope you will find for your sake, some one who takes an entirely different view of your book from what I do. I have written to you very frankly about this matter, and I hope you will not lay it up against me. It is because I have liked your short stories and I have admired them and felt that they showed ability that I am boldened to write you exactly how I feel about this longer manuscript. I hope, therefore, you will let me see other work of yours as I am distinctly and sincerely interested.

Believe me, my dear Mrs. Dumbar,

Very sincerely yours,

Paul R. Pryno &s.

New Work : 1900.

Oliver Trief, in class for morro.

I depth, therefore, in ability to a value about. I am offering it to the local, and ghould the court it, i total I am girst sent to you. I was a min to the total is to only me total is to only my opinion asset an appearant, as an appearant is offered to your four asks, and one will the total total asks, and one will the total your four asks, and one will the total total asks and the court is to a later with the court total asks and to a standing about the court is to a later which will be total asks to a standing about the court of the court is to a standing about the court is the court is a standing about the court is the court is a standing about the court is a standing as a standing

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Copy of letter mailed at this time to Sallie Brown.

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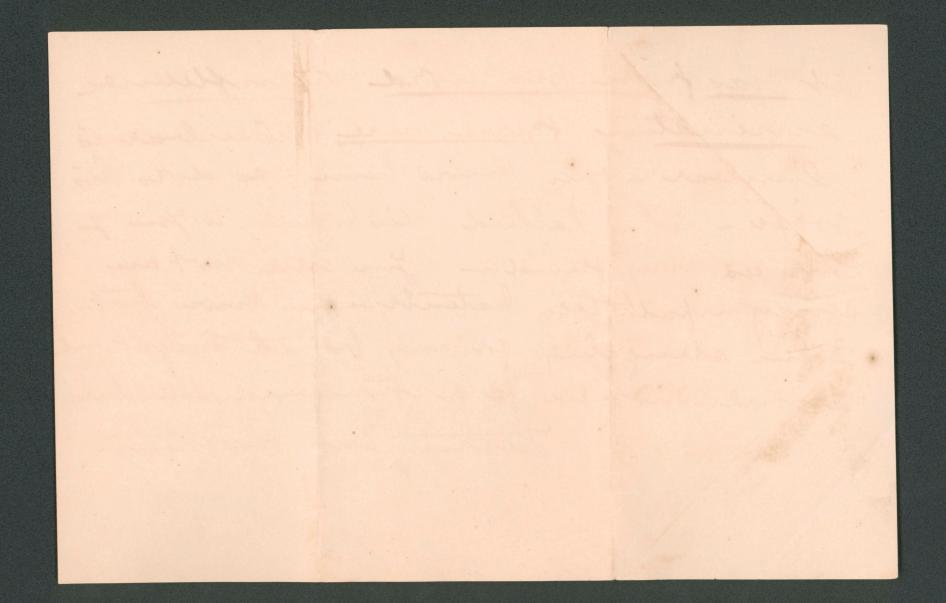
From: Victoria Earle Mathews a lever from mes Politte in which she writes a conversation had with fre respecting the Dunbars, and the Confiderruis you say I reposed in freed do hop ask for championship, - nere har to for as my talking thamsfully to Dunbar z his wife that is an old lie- z In book he portrait from his neck If was after he left here, every times Dars him he were if and erry leach

here admired it and him for their it- Lann siett and fær from home and it ill brownes for or the Alenburs to so readily heap upon me with abuse, for what the world Knows hvingh it is the may of the Bowardly horld to do as the Dunbar's are reputed to have doore. Dumbar doubles slissies to justify some cregularity of his one by Charging his wife with greater one 1-20-3 he fout a upon me what he may

learned in other grarlers, or his own crafty surmeses - You may taken huni, so may his wife for all I care only it is due my self to Say that it is a malignent be for any one to Sery hat I talked thomefully about Shunbars wife to Dunbar. In will do var - If Dumbur refused to write to his wife - if he removed her tilwire from his neck while in Jacksmille

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it was from no word or influence enrenating from me. Dunbar is Dunbar - yn Kurd hen, so ders his wife - if I talked dis loyelly to you z her ees my frend -, for once not an unsympathetic betieft, - you know that. . Dann struggling for my breath tonight and Inveld not be for a thousand Shunbars Follow Earle machens.



321 Spruce St., N.W., Washington, D.C.,

Aug. 20,1901,

My dear Hattie,

I received your letter and the little "memento" sevmore
aral days ago, and I was so much, pleased than you will realize because I have delayed so long in answering your letter or in acknoledging the scarf. I have not been well, plenty of fheumatism
and malaria, and it seemed to take all the energy out of mexe, so
that beyond the regular duties of the day, I had no inclination to
do another thing. I am not feeling a bit well now, but when your
letter and program came this morning, I roused myself, feeling a deep
shame that you should have had to remind me of my duties.

I enjoyed going over the program very much. How I should like to hear you sing: I have heard from two or three people beside Paul and Rosamond of your lovely voice, and I do hope I shall have the pleasure of hering you sing sometimes. When Rosamond was here he sang "The Rosary" for me. I had never heard it be fore, and raved over it, and he said, "You should hear Hattie sing it." And some day I hope to.

Mr. Woodward was here last summer and I heard him then for the first time. I think he has a lovely voice, so sympathetic and expressive. You must make a great pair in your duos.

Paul is quite well and we are staying quietly at home trying to keep cool as well as we can. Do you think that you are go-

331 Sprace St. F. H. W. Sprace Co., D. C., AHE. 20,1201, THE ROLL OF THE PARTY OF THE PA The Procestyca your detron and the lifting "memente" sev-- For at the test toll they private at the toll on offertes even T develmay remundito tracky, blow beet for even i firese of gababeton to animal to your tranship told the public of the organization and entering of notraining to the bad I, the bad to establish tale to be and the second letter and principle could this initialist where any of the language and ear sharm that ye lo got boxen or bon over begons my farityments SALLEBENGE I woll selective year very major of and allege I to live the start of have here from the or the design of asy bronsend agent a lacentede andramov saries to sereaucident cose he send "The Rosero" for no. I had pever bedief it the ore, and raved over it, see to set to rever about the entitle explicit see it was con ret moon days b TO DEATH WILL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF the tiret time. I telm he had a lovely votes senit territoric and .eout Trong at Ties at The second of the control of -wat sood as a liptup of the same author they eximple the -on son for any will come of the other they are fore again of the

ing to Buffalo? If you come to Washington it will be a great pleasure to both of us to have you make us a visit. I am sure you will like Washting ton and Washingto nians. Haven, t much news to write. I am glad you are making a success of your concerts. I know you will branch out in a larger field, but don't let it be "coon-show" field. You are too nice a girl for that, and I have seen so much, I should hate to think that you would be in such a combination. Take care of yourself, and don't run away with poor Mr. Woodward. Above all, let me know when the wedding will be. Sincerely yours, Cilice. [DUNBAR] 1-20-7

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ill hon 90 does pour the da for the preparation A VERY IMPORTANT READ IT CAREFUL SIR-You will see from the enclosed printed paper that I am planning to put on the market, in the near future, a book whose title will be, The Twentieth Century Negro Literature. The conception of the idea of putting such a book on the market originated in the following considerations: 1st. That there is gross ignorance, on the part of the majority of the white people of this country, of the intellectual ability of the Negro, and that as a consequence the educated Negro does not receive, at the hands of this class of people, that respectful consideration to which, by virtue of his intellectuality, he is entitled. 2nd. That at this time, when the intellectual attainments and achievements made by the other races and nationalities in the 19th Century, are being paraded the friends of the Negro are particularly interested to know something of the intellectual attainments made by him in the 19th Century. That there is a very strong desire, on the part of those white people of the civilized world who are deeply interested in the American race problem, and who know that, if this problem is ever to be solved at all, it will be solved by the combined efforts of the intelligent elements of both races, to know what the educated Negroes are thinking on the topics touching this problem. 4th. That a book, in which the aspiring Negro youths of the land can study the character sketches and the literary productions of the scholarly men of their own race, along with their study of the character sketches and the choice literary productions of the scholarly white men of the country, is a desideratum. 5th. That the majority of the Negroes need to be enlightened on those vital topics relating to them, that are agitating this country. The object of the proposed book will, therefore, be 1st. To enlighten the uninformed white people of the country on the intellectual ability of the Negro. 2nd. To give to those who are interested in the Negro some idea of the extent to which he contributed to the promotion of America's civilization, and of the intellectual attainments made by him in the 19th Century. 3d. To reflect the views of the most scholarly and prominent Negroes of America, on those topics, touching the Negro, that are engaging the attention of the civilized world. 4th. To point out, as incentives, to the aspiring Negro youths of the land, those men and women of their own race who, by their scholarship, their integrity of character, and their earnest efforts in the work of uplifting their race, have made themselves illustrious; and to enlighten such youths on those sociological questions, touching the Negro, that will sooner or later engage their attention. 5th. To arouse and to enlighten the Negroes on those vital questions relating to their best welfare. Now it is apparent to you, that in order to put a book on the market that will fulfill such an object, I must have the co-operation of the most scholarly and prominent Negroes of America. Recognizing you to be one of this class, I, therefore, cordially invite you to take part with me in this work. W H. Crogman, A. M, Professor of Latin and Greek in Clark University, and author of "The Progress of a Race," and of "Talks for the Times," has cheerfully consented to write the introduction to the book. The part I desire you to take is, to let me have a sketch of your life, containing not more than 500 words; a photo of yourself. 🕢 a carefully prepared article on the ... topic named in the enclosed paper, to-wit: containing not less than 1,000 words, nor more than 2,000 words. The book will be published by the largest Subscrip. tion Company in America, who, through their thousands of agents, distributed throughout every section of the country, will give it a wide circulation. You wil be paid ten dollars in books for your article. As it is our purpose to get out the book within six months, you will be kind enough to let me have your manuscripts and photo within ninety days from the date of this letter. You will please let me know by return mail whether you will write the article or not, so that I may know whether to get some one else or not. N B.—1st. Write on one side of the paper. 2nd. Write as legib'y as you can so that there will be no difficulty in reading it. 3rd. Let the sketch of your life contain not more than 500 words, and your article not less than 1,000 nor more than 2,000 words. 4th. Send your manuscripts not later than ninety days from the date of this letter. 5th. Answer by return mail so that the work will not be delayed by your failure to answer promptly. 6th. Write the sketch of your life in the third person, as if written by another, so that it wil not have to be rewritten. Sincerely, D. W. CULP, Palatka, Fla.

A. Real and write in dift topic

The Twentieth Century Regro Literature.

A Much Needed Book to be Published in the Near Future Under the Editorship of

D. W. CULP, A. M., M. D.

It will contain biographical sketches and photographs of one hundred (one for each year in the century) of the most scholarly and prominent Negroes of America, and carefully prepared articles by them on the following topics:

1st. Did the American Negro make, in the nineteenth century, achievements, along the lines of wealth, morality, education, etc., commensurate with his opportunities? If so, what achievements did he make?

2nd. Will it be possible for the Negro to attain, in this country, unto the American type of civilization?

3rd. How can the friendly relations, now existing between the two races in the South, be strengthened and maintained?

4th. Should the Negroes be given an education different from that given to the whites?

5th. Should the ignorant and non-property holding Negro be allowed to vote?

6th. Is the criminal Negro justly dealt with in the courts of the South?

7th To what extent is the Negro pulpit uplifting the race?

7th To what extent is the Negro pulpit aprojeing the race? 8th. Is it time for the Negro colleges in the South to be put in the hands of Negro teachers?

9th. Will the education of the Negro solve the race problem?

10th. What roll is the educated Negro woman to play in the uplifting of her race?

11th. How can the Negroes be induced to rally more to Negro business enterprises, and to their

12th. What are the causes of the great mortality among the Negroes in the cities of the South, and how is that mortality to be lessened?

13th. What should be the Negro's attitude in politics?

14th. Is the Negro as morally depraved as he is reputed to be? 15th. Is the young Negro an improvement, morally, on his father? 16th. The Negro as a soldier?

17th. The Negro as a writer?

18th. Did the American Negro prove in the 19th century that he is intellectually equal to the white man?

19th. What progress did the American white man make in the 19th century along the line of conceding to the Negro his religious, political and civil rights?

20th. The Negro as a laborer? 21st. The Negro as a Christian?

22d. Does the North afford, to the Negro better opportunities of making a living than the South? 23d. What is the Negro teacher doing in the matter of uplifting his race?

24th. Is the Negro newspaper an important factor in the elevation of the Negro? 25th. Are other than Methodist and Baptist Churches adapted to the present Negro?

THE OBJECT OF THE BOOK

will be: 1st. To enlighten the uninformed white people of this country on the intellectual ability of the Negro. 2nd. To give to those who are interested in the Negro some idea of the extent to which he contributed to the promotion of America's civilization, and of the intellectual attainments achieved by him in the 19th Century. 3d. To reflect the views of the most scholarly Negroes of America, on those topics, touching the Negro that are engaging the attention of the civilized world. 4th. To point out, as incentives, to the aspiring Negro youths of the land, those men and women of their own race who, by their scholarship, their integrity of character, and their earnest efforts in the work of uplifting their race, have made themselves illustrious; and to enlighten such youths on those sociological questions, touching the Negro that will sooner or later engage their attention. 5th. To arouse and to enlighten the Negroes on those vital questions relating to their best welfare.

THE WRITERS OF THE BOOK

,	will be:	Two scholarly Bishops of the three leading Negro Methodist Churches 6 Scholarly preachers, four of each denomination 32	
		Presidents of colleges	
		Tosidents of Coneges	
		Professors in colleges 10	
		Principals of other schools 8	
		Learned and prominent physicians	
		Skilled and experienced lawyers. 4	
		Successful newspaper editors 4	
		Editors of magazines 3	
		Anthons of books	
		Authors of books	
		Prominent politicians 4	
		Eminent women	

There will be four articles by four different writers on each topic, each writer being allowed six or seven pages—one for biographical sketch, one for photo and the others for his article, thus giving a book of between 700 and 800 pages.

A gevtleman or lady