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*My letter of 11/21/54
and Miss Smith's
formal reply. I hope to
turn over to Dr. Perkins*

Sierra Paracaima 1285
México, D. F.
December 20, 1954

Dear Owen:

I appreciate very much your letter of December 17 and also the more formal typewritten note and I am sending you herewith an acknowledgement of that letter. I shall add a codicil to my will providing for these papers and I shall so draft it that the University will have liberty to use the papers as it sees fit. I appreciate very much the interest you have taken in this matter and that of the University and President Perkins. I hope that I may live long enough to do something with these papers, but when one reaches our age one never knows. I have been very fortunate considering everything so far as health is concerned, but when one reaches 70 there are all sorts of things that can happen to one.

Marion and I enjoyed so much your hand-written note and to have news from you. I can quite appreciate why you prefer not to travel. I am in the same position. Now that I do not have to travel any longer for the company, I prefer to stay here. We do regret that we cannot look forward to seeing you here, as it is one place where I am sure you could live just about the way you do at home, but nevertheless I appreciate fully why you prefer not to travel.

When one reaches a certain age one must expect certain inconveniences, even if they are of a secondary character. I am glad to say that Marion is quite well. She does not look her age and in spirit is as young as ever. She is really an extraordinary woman and I cannot tell you how much she has meant in my life. She has some trouble with her knee which has bothered her ever since many years ago in China, but with the years it has become a little more acute but she gets around very well.

During the last few days and since I last wrote you I have had some indications that the ulcer which I thought was definitely cured is cutting up again. Dr. Sara Jordan of the Lahey Clinic has been telling me for several months that I should in any event, even though I had no inconvenience, come up for a check up in early January, and I was trying to put it off until the late Spring when we plan to spend about six weeks north. Now that I have this recurring inconvenience I have just written her that I plan to be in the New England Baptist Hospital on Monday, January 10, for a check up. I am going alone as I am hoping that the check up will be satisfactory, but should I have to remain in the hospital for some time, which I earnestly hope not, Marion will be coming up by train to Boston. I feel rather upset because I have been hoping that this trouble was definitely over, but I am not complaining because on the whole I have so much to be grateful for.

Dr. W. Owen Sypherd,
University of Delaware,
Newark, Delaware.

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I am so much interested to hear of what you are doing and that you have recently finished a book entitled "Curses Loud and Deep". I realize that there are difficulties in the way of publishing certain types of books because printing costs have gone up so much and scholarly and professional books, no matter what their worth may be, have so small a sale. Publishers I am told are much less apt to take books now for which there will be a small sale than they were up to a few years ago. Writing for a living has become a very uncertain venture too, as royalties are much smaller than they used to be. Very often a publisher will publish a book if he is assured of at least the printing costs. Have you any idea what it would cost to print an edition of say 3,000 copies of your book? It would be interesting to find out what a good house considers would be the cost of printing an edition of say 3,000 copies. Usually such books are printed from plates which can be kept a number of years so that the printing of additional copies is relatively much cheaper. Perhaps we could find someone who would be willing to finance the book. I am really interested in this and may be of some help if the idea appeals to you.

I am interested too in the three articles which you are writing on the horses of St. Mark, etc. If you have difficulty in placing these articles, I wish you would let me know. I do not have quite the same connections which I had in the past but I still have some friends who may be useful. Let us keep more closely in touch.

I know what satisfaction you have in the writing of the articles and in the book and I feel rather sure that they will get into print.

How our lives have changed! So many of those of whom we were so fond and who meant so much to us have passed away. I can realize how the University has changed for you in so many ways with so many contemporaries gone. I hardly pick up the New York Times that Marion and I do not see that an old friend has passed away. I am glad to know that Mary Evans is holding up so well. Marion and I were talking of her the other day. I am glad to know that Bess is on the whole fairly well. I cannot tell you how much happiness it would give Marion and me to spend a few days in Newark and I hope that we may be able to do it before many months. If we do go up in the Spring for six weeks and everything goes as we are planning, we will certainly see you and those of our friends in Newark who are left.

We have just returned this morning from a three-day stay at our home in Cuernavaca and we are planning to leave again on Thursday to remain there until January 2nd. If I do go I plan to leave here on Sunday the 9th by air to be in the hospital on Monday morning, the 10th, in Boston for this check up, but if it is satisfactory I shall have to come back in a few days time as I do not wish to leave Marion alone here a day longer than is necessary.

I cannot tell you what a pleasure it was to have your letter and I hope that you will have a very happy Christmas and that the New Year will be a good one in every way. I need not tell you that Marion joins in these wishes. I will let you know how things go in Boston at the Hospital.

Cordially and faithfully yours,

