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AMERICAN OFFICE OF
THE BRITISH WEEKLY
THE BOOKMAN (LONDON)
THE EXPOSITOR (LONDON)

EDITED BY
W. ROBERTSON NICOLL,
M.A., D.D.

PUBLISHERS IN AMERICA
FOR
HODDER AND STOUGHTON
ST. PAUL'S HOUSE, LONDON

GEORGE H. DORAN COMPANY
PUBLISHERS
THIRTYEIGHT WEST THIRTY-SECOND STREET NEW YORK

February 4, 1915

Mr. [unclear]
Ms
Editorial Department,
Saturday Evening Post,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Gentlemen:

We are enclosing to you a manuscript
by Flora Annie Steel, the well-known author of
ON THE FACE OF THE WATERS, THE MERCY OF THE LORD, etc.

It is a war story with a rather more
human note than most war stories. Being of that
character you will understand that we should be
greatly indebted to you for an early decision upon
it.

The London publishers of Mrs. Steel have
requested us to ask seven one-half cents a word for
the story.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Lewis

GEORGE H. DORAN COMPANY

SL.0

February 8, 1915

Dear Sir :

Thank you for showing us this story by Mrs. Steel. We are sorry that it does not turn out to be the sort of story that we feel we should have for The Post.

Very truly yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis
Enclosure - Gemini
H - W

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August 7, 1915.

George Horace Lorimer, Esq.,
The Saturday Evening Post.

Dear Mr. Lorimer:

Having been -- well, not a
magazine editor, but near to one, in fact
across the room from him, I know it isn't
canonical to thank Personages for accept-
ing stories, but I do want to thank you
for your darn nice letter accepting "Nature,
Inc."

Sincerely,

Sinclair Lewis

August 8, 1915

Dear Mr. Lewis :

Nature Incorporated is an exceedingly entertaining short story and we are very glad to have it for The Saturday Evening Post. A check for it will be returned by the treasurer on Tuesday next. Now that you have made a start with us, I hope that you will follow the example of Irvin Cobb, Bobb Fitzsimmons and Miss Phoebe Snow and start in to become a household word.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis

L-L

16 Gen. H. Donan
38 W. 32nd St.
N.Y.C.

GEORGE H. DORAN COMPANY
PUBLISHERS
THIRTY-EIGHT WEST THIRTY-SECOND STREET, NEW YORK

August 16, 1915.

Dear Mr. Lorimer:

In sending you the enclosed story I want to comment that I do not plan to make your life a burden by bombarding you, now that you have accepted "Nature, Inc." But if you should like, I'd be glad indeed to send my stories to you before sending them anywhere else -- as I've done with both the story you took and the one I enclose.

For four solid years, now, I've been working on two novels, "Our Mr. Wrenn," which Harper published last year and "The Trail of the Hawk," which Harpers will publish, and maybe feature a little, next month.

So now I've started at short stories with the accumulated plans and plots of four years, and a certain pleasure in turning from terrifically long things, without a Belgian's chance of being serialized, to magazine work again.

In particular, I have plans for a serial -- no, I ain't going to bore you with the plot -- and a desire to do some Post stories about my native state, Minnesota, which has some exceedingly dramatic stuff that has been practically untouched in fiction.

The enclosed story, "The Kidnapped Memorial" has some of those Minnesota characters. It's one on which I've been working for some months, and been holding that it may not be too long before Decoration Day. If you like the thing enough, could you ~~do~~ it so long before next Decoration Day as this? It's much the best short story I've ever written, if my editorial judgment is any good on my own stuff. If you like it, like the Middlewest flavor of it, I may bother you with some other Middlewest stories, P.D.Q.

Um! Gee! Let's see. Your working-time is valued at \$1.50 per minute. Two minutes to read the above Characteristic Effusion from Promising Young Author. Net cost, \$3.00 (if you read it all.) Gosh, that's what you get for writing me so pleasant and entertaining a letter as you did in accepting "Nature, Inc."

Sincerely,
 Sinclair Lewis

(+ Bros.

accept

August 25th, 1915.

Dear Mr. Lewis:

The kidnapped parade is unkidnapped herewith. Just as I had persuaded Mr. Lorimer to let me get you to re-write certain portions, in walks another story by Cobb with his Confederate Veterans doing a little parade of their own.

Taking it all in all, it would be better if you and Mr. Cobb didn't have to work on the same side of the street.

With the customary regrets, apologies, best wishes, etc., etc., I am

Very truly yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis.

G-J

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August 27, 1915.

Dear Mr. Goode:

The bright and morning face of "The Kidnapped Memorial" by Kid Cobb greets me, and I hasten to send you a new story, "Commutation: \$9.17" which I finished yesterday.

Thank you a lot for the trouble you've taken with "The Kidnapped Memorial," and let me tactfully mingle my appreciation of having met you, t' other day, with discreet hopes that you may like the new story sent you.

Sincerely,

Suclair Lewis

K.M. Goode, Esq.,
The Saturday Evening Post,
Philadelphia.

August 31, 1915

Dear Mr. Lewis :

"A fair exchange is no robbery,"
and we are keeping Commutation \$9.17 for The
Saturday Evening Post. A check for it will
be returned by the treasurer on Tuesday.

Yours very truly,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis

L-G

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September 20, 1915.

K.M. Goode, Esq.,
The Saturday Evening Post.

Dear Mr. Goode:

This is one of those crafty letters beloved of Promising Young Authors to inform the editor that a short story is enclosed, lest the editor suppose that the enclosed is a laundry bill or a gold brick or something like that.

I might also tell you that my grandmother is one of the most prominent washerwomen in Kalamazoo, and that if you take my story it will enormously increase the circulation of your magazine in the better washing circles of that city.

Successfully moved? Great Neck -- and Crosshampton Harbor -- miss you.

Sincerely,

Sicclair Lewis

*File it
msc*

*Postmark
Enclosure*

September 28th, 1915.

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Acknowledging immediately yours of September 20th, permit me to state that your argument with regard to the possible influence of your literary efforts on the select washerwomen in Kalamazoo has proved so potent that a check is going through to you today. Just as soon as we have built our circulation up to the point where we can afford to risk it, we hope to publish your very interesting little story.

Yours etc.

P. S. I was going to call on you last time in New York, but had to bother around with a lot of artists. Hope for more luck this coming week.

Mr. Sinclair Lewis.

G - M

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October 4.

K.M. Goode, Esq.,
The Saturday Evening Post.

Dear Mr. Goode:
Story enclosed.
See you Friday?
A little dinner?
Greetings.

Truly,

Sl.
Sinclair Lewis

PS: Aw, this isn't such a tightwad letter as it looks. It's the result of long and careful thought on the subject of how to be fresh without being flip. I could have penned a thousand words in the time it took me to turn out the immortal lyric above. Gosh you gotta get the editors into good humor with your letter -- I knew it because of all the cunnin' little letters that come to me with mss. SL.

Enclosed:
IN OUR JOLLY FASHION

October 12, 1915

Dear Mr. Lewis :

I believe that Mr. Goode has
spoken to you regarding the enclosed story.

Thank you for showing it to us.

Yours very truly,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis

W-L

Enclosure - In Our Jolly Fashion

October 14, 1915

Dear Mr. Lewis :

I hear that your book is a good one. All the girls in the office are passing it from hand to hand, which, in a shopful of good, bad and indifferent literature like this, is, you will admit, tantamount to veteran salesladies in Hryler's nibbling at some particular make of bon-bon. Nevertheless, I still insist that that last story you sent in was unthinkably bad, even for an overworked amateur like yourself, but, as President Taft used to say, however -

Yours very truly,

P. S. Much obliged for the Webster book. I took that one home before anybody else could get it. Will write him a line of acknowledgement.

Mr. Sinclair Lewis
G - H

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November 3, 1915.

Dear Mr. Goode:

I spend all of yesterday -- election day -- in alternately wondering how much we suffragents would be beaten, and in completing the Boss story; came in with it under my arm this morning, and found your letter inquiring about it awaiting me. It gives one a chance to say "How small the world is after all," or "Well, well, ain't it curious how them things happen," or "Is it hot enough for you today," or any of those comments on coincidences.

it's a two-part story, &

It's enclosed and it's called "If I Were Boss." Though you would almost certainly find it here in the envelope if I didn't advise you of its presence.

Am I going to see you the last of the week? I very much hope so. Thanks a lot for the post card.

Sincerely -- humbly -- respectfully --

Siiclan Lewis

K.M. Goode, Esq.,
The Saturday Evening Post.

November 15th, 1915.

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Here is a work of art which I am sure you will appreciate.

When I get up to New York again, I am going to call you. Tried last week, but you had gone home.

Mrs. Goode and I are trying to follow The Trail of the Hawk by reading in relays. I got as far as the ninth chapter last night. She didn't feel well enough to get up this morning, but I managed to get to the office all right. Hoping you are the same, I am, nevertheless,

Yours very truly,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis.

G - M

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM



NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

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BELVIDERE BROOKS, VICE-PRESIDENT

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RECEIVED AT

10NY M 15

FY NEWYORK NY 1205PDEC 8 15

K M GOODE

SATURDAY EVENING POST PHA PA

CANNOT GET AWAY FRIDAY BUT CAN ANY TIME SATURDAY LETT
ME KNOW WHERE AND WHEN

SINCLAIR LEWIS

1252PM

6th St., Phone Walnut

309 Fifth Ave
Tuesday

Dear Mr. Williams:

Yes indeed I'd be
glad to be @ J. E. P. New
York office at eleven A.M.

Thursday. If you should

be able to go out to
lunch with me, I'd be

delighted!

Sincerely,

Sinclair Lewis

March 5, 1916

Dear Mr. Lewis :

I shall be in New York, I expect, on Thursday of this week, March 8th, and hope that you may be able to call at our New York office, eighteenth floor of the Metropolitan Building, 1 Madison Square, at eleven o'clock on the forenoon of that day. I should like very much to meet you and have a talk with you about your work.

Will you be good enough to write me on receipt of this note confirming the time and place of meeting?

We are having prepared for you an assignment of rights in your story, Twenty-four Hours in June, and will forward it to you shortly.

Yours very truly,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis
W-L

86/50
Carmel, Calif.
January 2, 1917.

Churchill Williams, Esq.,
The Saturday Evening Post,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Williams:

Over a year ago the Post considered for some time my story of Decoration Day, "A Kidnapped Memorial." It was finally rejected, but I had a long talk with Mr. Goode about it. I understand that you-all liked the central idea, but disliked various details -- especially a confusing multiplicity of characters.

I have let the story lie fallow for more than a year. I have now changed it greatly, particularly in the matter of cutting out the unnecessary characters, and thereby focusing the interest on the central person, and I am sending it back to you in the new version.

I hope that it is so changed throughout -- in almost every sentence -- that you will not have that tedious experience which I well remember from my own years of ms.-reading, of having to wade through the too familiar pages of an Old Friend!

Sincerely yours,

Sinclair Lewis

January 15th, 1917

Dear Mr. Lewis:

We agree here, I am sorry to say, in feeling that "Kidnapped Memorial" still lacks the qualities which a story of yours should have in order to make good with the Post readers. Therefore we are returning it and thank you for showing it to us.

We look forward to better luck with the next one.

Very truly yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis.

W-H