

Louisville, Ky. Nov. 3d, 1925
Deer Park Ave. 1970

Dear Professor:

I didn't get a chance to answer your last two letters or to write to Browne until today because of much other work and the trouble I had with Dr. Straton, the new fundamentalist leader, of which you may have read in the papers, as the Associated Press reported the incident all over the country.

When he lectured here last August he became so rank in his tirades against the evolutionists, of whom I am one, that I got up and called him a liar.

The audience, a huge mass meeting, mostly of Southern Baptist fanatics, fortunately couldn't agree whether to throw me into the river or to lynch me (seriously!), which gave the police a chance to rescue me with the patrol wagon.

The case was finally settled by agreement and a fine of \$50.00.

The affair caused me a great deal of trouble, correspondence with newspapers and individuals, and kept me from attending to a great deal of more useful business. It will, however, probably have the good effect of making the fundamentalists more careful and keep them from spreading the most offensive lies which might inflame the popular mind sufficiently to interfere seriously with religious and educational liberty.

Incidentally the affair gave me, if not fame, so at least a tremendous amount of notoriety all over the country, literally from Massachusetts to Oregon, as I see by the raft of pressclippings, editorials, articles in minor magazines and letters I received from all over the country, most of them commendatory. ----

A very simple and comparatively cheap method to achieve national and perhaps international renown which I recommend to you if you should have occasion for it.

I have just written to Browne, asking him to return all my illustrations as I want to pick out some of them for independent pictures, (which is the case). I urge him to return the illustrations in case he has no definite prospect to publish the book in the near future.

I am, however, afraid that he will ignore my request just as he ignored yours.

Your surmise that he will publish when he sees that you have become fairly well known through other literary work is probably correct. It would then be easier for him to get a loan which is obviously the thing he is waiting for.

In case he does not answer me within a reasonable time, say three weeks, could you not make inquiries through other parties, those who directed your attention to him in the first place, or by letting some friend in another city inquire about some book published by Browne and thus find out whether he and his firm are still in existence?

Is there no such thing as an author's league that could give you some assistance or advice?

Many thanks for your information about your own recent publications, I liked particularly the article on the first families of Oklahoma.