

Louisville, Ky. March 29, 1927
Deer Park Ave. 1970

Dear Professor:

Many thanks for the copy of your "Fandango". It is a very interesting piece of work you have done. I liked particularly "Beecher Island" (Roman Nose). I had long been familiar with the facts of that incident of frontier history and had considered it a splendid theme for a painting or two. Your version of it will help to keep the idea alive in me. That these frontier stories are splendid material for poetry, especially of the epic or ballad form there can be no doubt and I had always found it strange that this material had never been used before as you have now used it. There are also great possibilities there for the painter. It is true that the present trend in painting is decidedly away from historical paintings, which are no longer seen at our modern art exhibitions, but that seems due to the fact that our art (in painting) is still so much under the influence of European painting, making it and keeping it more or less colonial in character. If American art should ever become fully emancipated from European influences and begin to be rooted more in American soil I don't doubt that American artists will turn more to the most picturesque subjects this country affords namely Indian and frontier life. Even if that life is now gone, it can easily be reconstructed because the component elements of it, namely rugged types of both races, the old costumes etc. and above all, the glorious landscapes that furnished the theatre for the old life are still there.

As to the photos of Ogalala types, I just remember that I took those photos on a trip which was financed by the Museum of Ethnology of the city of Hamburg, Germany, and had to send the negatives to that museum as part of the collections I made on that occasion (in 1909). Since these photos and the right to reproduce them thus belong to that museum it will be necessary to get the permission to use them in your edition of Parkman. I shall write to the director of the museum and don't doubt that he will permit the reproduction in your book. I have a few prints which you may then use.

I shall also follow your suggestion and write to Carnahan and ask when the "dummy" will be ready. Evidently the book cannot come out before next fall. But they ought to have it ready for the Christmas trade.

Thanking you again for your book and the kind dedication on the fly-leaf, I am

as always

Frederick Wedgwood

P. S.

Perhaps we could afford at this rather advanced stage of our acquaintance to drop the "Mr.".