

16 May 1955

Mr. Stuart Hadden  
New Milford, Connecticut

Dear Stuart:

I do not know whether you ever received a reply to your very nice letter of 11 April, sent to me at George Washington University Hospital; and even if there was an acknowledgment, it was probably a very brief one written by Elizabeth.

I don't know what she told you about my illness but when you say that I was "consigned to a rest cure in a Washington hospital" I get the impression that perhaps you think that my illness was brought on by overwork of a mental character. I hasten to eliminate that impression, because I do not think that my coronary occlusion is to be attributed to such a cause; it probably goes back a long ways in my history. It is interesting to recall that after my World War I service I failed in a medical examination given me by a couple of Army Doctors at Camp Grant, when I had been urged to stay in the Army and make a career of being an officer in the Signal Corps. They rejected me for what they said was a functional coronary disease but it must have been very slight, for I seem to have gone on so many years thereafter without apparently any difficulty.

Anyhow, you will, I am sure, be glad to learn that I am home now and have been out of the hospital about two weeks. I am permitted to get dressed as of last Tuesday but am still confined to the second floor. We like the house so much that we couldn't give it up and decided rather to spend some money on installing a small elevator in the back staircase well. The carpentry work has been completed for the shaft but we are still awaiting arrival of the elevator cage. I hope it comes within a day or two now, because it is a very serious burden on Elizabeth to go up and down the front staircase so often.

I do not know whether you know about the status of my private bill, so that the enclosed clipping from the Washington Post will probably be of interest to you. (I would like to have it returned, please.) The bill is now before the Subcommittee on Patents of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The composition of the Subcommittee is: O'Mahoney (Wyoming) Chairman; Olin Johnston (South Carolina) and Wiley (Wisconsin). My Counsel has appeared before the Clerk of the Subcommittee and has given him background information and some documents which were available to the House Judiciary Committee but which the latter apparently did not include among those sent to the Senate. I am told that there is nothing to be done except to wait until the Subcommittee can find time to hold a meeting, so we have

our fingers crossed. As you are well aware, the passage of the bill by the House is only the first of several rather high hurdles. I have not as yet made a down payment on a new electric razor even, let alone a much-needed new automobile.

Thank you for your most welcome congratulations on our Folger award. The manuscript is now in the hands of the Editorial Board of the Cambridge University Press in England, it having been forwarded by their American representative in New York with the recommendation that it be published. We are hoping to hear favorable word any day now, but we realize that there will have to be a good deal of cutting and trimming before the thing is really ready for the printing, should we be so fortunate as to have the Editorial Board agree with the recommendation of their New York office.

I was very pleased to hear about your movements and whereabouts in the past few months and am glad to know how nice a time you and Mabel both had on your various trips. We were, of course, very sorry to learn about the illness which Mabel contracted in Mexico. She surely should learn to give up drinking water outside the United States and stick to either straight whiskey or the local equivalent thereof.

Congratulations to everybody on the birth of the new baby and especially to you on the acquisition of a third grandson.

I will be awfully cross with you if you should come to Washington soon on business and fail to leave enough time to come by for a chat. I want to consult you on something in connection with the private bill.

I must not do too much, so will bring this letter to a close. With reiterated thanks for your very nice one to me and love to Mabel, I am,

Affectionately,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN

Incl:  
a/s