

4519 Fifteenth Ave. West

Vancouver, B.C., Canada

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

February 7, 1951

Dear Mrs Brack :

Blessings on you for eluding the protocol and letting me have the low-down on what appears to have been an uninhibited and salutary discussion. Now that what you aptly call my "nebulous and undefined uncertainties" are temporarily assuaged I do feel that I can talk things over with Miss Pfefferkorn to much better advantage. It goes without saying that complete discretion will be observed and that I shall not reveal the source of any opinions that have unofficially reached me. Many of the questions raised during the discussion were related to interpretation and are really more in her field than mine. I am more than ever convinced that from a chronological point of view, if from no other, it will be preferable to defer interpretation to the later chapters of the book when the entire history can be reviewed in its true perspective.

In the meantime, I am still taking for granted that my chief responsibility is to prepare a well documented narrative of the early years as a necessary basis for such interpretation. At the moment, and in the meantime, I am proceeding with an amplification of both manuscripts and find that this process makes the strictly documentary stuff more lively and readable without either interfering with its historical accuracy or getting involved in any premature interpretation. It looks as though some good new source material may be forthcoming from members of the committee and especially from Miss Taylor that would be very useful in this connection. I hate to emulate the importunate widow of Scripture --- but, oh, how I would like to get hold of this as soon as possible. But there -- you have done so much already.

To my horror, an air mail communication has just reached me telling me that some sketch of my lurid career is to be scattered over our national hook-up. The female who has this nefarious project in mind has just let me know that she has got into touch with the Johns Hopkins Alumnae Association in this connection. Please believe that I have nothing to do with this ridiculous business and am doing my best to head it off. All my apologies to the Association and its members. Could you possibly say a word of explanation to the proper officers? I shall, of course, see to it that if the broadcast has to proceed, no mention will be made of the JHE. A reassuring word would be appreciated. Envelope enclosed.

I don't want to add to your heavy load at a time when heart and head and hands must be full to overflowing. Thank you for understanding so many imponderables.

With all good wishes, gratefully yours