2 April 1948

Dear Sidney:

I am genuinely ashamed about not writing sooner. But I'll try not to use up the bit of time I've found for this note in attempts to explain my delay.

Your experimental adventure with Miss McC. tells me not only with interest but also with amusement. Of all the people in the U.S., there is scarcely another about whom I have more human curiosity. The startling lack of formality and the immediately personal details in her letter to you make me wonder if, by some inward part of genius, she has succeeded in side-stepping the artificialities, verbal and conventional, that keep most people living in the shallows and ped after merely going through.
rather emaciated mores of living. I also wonder if such characteristics indicate a very different thing, the familiar and almost routine Bohemian "revolt" that I've often found in people who produce various sorts of "art."

I hope you've seen Ickinson or at least made plans to do so. I've even had vague hopes and fancies about the possibility of getting her to come down to Washington when the Am. Psychiat. Assn. meets there in May. I'm assuming you'll be able to come, for it won't be far from Richmond. There are few things I can recall that are as formidable as this girl's writing. From the books I seem to get not only the impact of a rare and specific experience of emotion but also ideas of a deeply troubled soul. And, as a matter of fact, everyone who has impressed me as
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a fully alive and sentient being has also seemed to me perplexed and suffering. Perhaps I should modify this and say that the non-dead people seem at least to have been perplexed and to have suffered inordinately.

I don't believe that the failures of living means defeat, but I'm sure it has its price of torment. Most of the "creative" people I encounter seem not merely in rebellion against bad and negative things but against what I take to be positive and as deep, and as deeply true, as biology itself. I hope Miss Carson hasn't worked herself into this situation.

Your contact with her (and may it progress!) fills me with all sorts of speculations that for years have come into consciousness from time to time and
that still leave me puzzled. I hope an opportunity will come for
us to pursue them.

Please tell Milton. I regret not having kept in
better touch with developments
here. I believe our situation
may be better than it seemed
when I discussed it with him.

Do you recall what venue for
Esquire his article appeared in?
I'd like to look it up.

The marrying on B2 physical
continues. Mrs. H. Corbett is
now going to leave us for
Oradea. Blossoms with
one of the recently graduated
seniors. Corbett hopes to
get out of uniform in
a little over a month.

Jennie joins me in
good wishes.

Sincerely,

Henry