

January 7, 1944

Dear Sumner:

Mother just read me your letter of the 4th and I hasten to inform you that I did receive the check for \$100.00 (by this time you no doubt have received my earlier letter in which I told you that I had received the check and had added \$12.50 for the purchase of a \$150.00 bond), and that your summer suit was mailed on the 5th with a notation that it should receive special handling. In other words, you can always rest assured that every request of yours is carefully attended to and if by chance you are not promptly advised, do not be disturbed.

I am glad that you are looking for other fields to conquer but I wish that you would be more explicit about the first field. Do you mean that the fields which you have already explored have been conquered and that you are now looking for new ones or that you were unsuccessful in your first attempts and are looking for others to rule? The lack of detail is terrible disappointing. How many fields have you already surveyed? How many have you won? To what degree have you been successful? In what did the success consist? These are pertinent facts of which we are ignorant. If we knew them, we might be able to help you develop your technique and strategy. After all I have years, though only one field. Shucks, son, don't be bashful in your tales of the conqueror and the conquered.

As long as you stay in this country, make the best of every passing moment. Make new acquaintances which may ripen into friendship. Meet the young and the old, the fair and the unfair, the cultured and the vulgar. Then write us all the details (I hope none of them is gory).

Uncle Louie is on his way back to Louisiana and by the time you receive this missive he should be at his post. I doubt, however, whether he will be able to do a full day's work for a week yet to come for he was not up to par when he left, though the doctors gave him a clean bill of health, and the train ride will prove tiring. But he will be back in his environment where he will once more assume his duties, give orders, and rule his roost.

I am still going to services faithfully and I hope I will be able to continue my religious duties as my blessed Mother would want me to. I respect her memory, think of her fondly and regard her passing as a peaceful interlude. Some day when the sands of time have run out on me I hope once again to be with her. Life was good to her for 50 out of her 54 years and, I hope, life will be good to us whom she left behind. There is still so much work to be done I look forward to many many more years of happy life with Mother and with you and Helen. And when the war is over and you have returned to us we will make plans for your future which will be constructive and so worthwhile.

Affectionately,