14 December 1954

Mr. Stuart Hedden
Merryall
New Milford, Connecticut

Dear Stuart:

When you were in Washington some time back you told us that Mabel
and you had once spent a very nice holiday at some small place in or
near Charlottesville, Virginia. Do you recall the name?

Elizabeth and I are planning to spend a few days of quiet and
rest during the Christmas holiday and will try the place you visited,
if you remember the name or how to get there. We need a rest--finally
and at long last, the manuscript of our book is finished!

I enclose with much immodesty a copy of a letter I received quite
recently. This was wholly unexpected, for despite the request of the
Britannica that I limit the revision to 6,000 words, I went to over
8,500. Hence I fully expected them to fire the manuscript back to me
with instructions to cut it down to size. Not only was there not even
a murmur as to size, but also they sent a check very promptly and
followed it up with the letter of which I send you a copy. Please
return it. Doing the Britannica revision cost me considerable effort
and diverted me from the work on the book--but now I can see the wisdom
of doing the job as I did. And don't neglect to remind yourself that
the mss. had to receive the full clearance treatment by the authorities
before I could submit it to the Britannica. Getting it written so that
it could be cleared--and still have it remain as interesting and useful
as the Britannica letter implies--that seems to have been a good trick.
Maybe I don't have to be too modest about the letter!

Otherwise things are in good shape, too. Very recently I sold
practically all of what we owned in the way of stocks--I thought I'd
get out while I had fair or better than good profits. Maybe I made
a mistake but I don't stay awake at night worrying about what we had
in the market.

With our very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,
and love to Mabel.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN

Incl:
a/s