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1921

## Charles Chesnutt Correspondence- Letter From Publisher October 1921

Charles W. Chesnutt

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Box 1  
Folder No.  
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October 24, 1921.

Dear Mr. Chesnutt,

It is very unpleasant for us to return a manuscript to you without a proposal to publish, because on personal grounds we would much rather accept than decline.

Business conditions in the publishing trade are pretty badly mixed at present, as possibly you know. The outlook for the future is more or less uncertain because of the unsettled business conditions and the extremely strong competition in the field of fiction. Briefly, we haven't been able to see clearly the probable sale for your new story at our hands large enough to make the results pleasing either to you or to us, and we cannot believe that it would be wise to make the venture in the face of absolute distrust. If we are wrong, no doubt somebody else will be wiser than we, but we cannot do otherwise, in view of all the conditions, than to write you in this frank way and return the manuscript.

We are sending it by this mail, under separate cover, and we remain, with regrets,

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Charles W. Chesnutt,  
Cleveland,  
Ohio.  
HEG/T

Fayetteville State University  
Chesnutt Library - Archives  
Fayetteville, N.C. 28307-4257