EVERETT SKILLINGS
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE
MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT

Waldsruh', Peaks Island, Maine
August 17, 1949

Dear Miss Sipprell:

The photo of Dr. Schweitzer came last week-end and your letter came yesterday. I am very grateful to you for it. It is beyond my words to tell you how much I value it. To say Thank you seems very inadequate. It is truly a work of art.

My first glance at Dr. Schweitzer in Boston quite startled me. Time had left its marks on him- this man of such pronounced physical vigor seventeen years ago, the first and only time I had seen him. But in spite of this your picture of him shows the triumph of your artistry. The physical frailty goes into the background. As I look at him in your photograph, what impresses me above all is the spiritual light and radiance of his eyes and countenance. You have caught his dominating trait. His spiritual nature predominates. How appropriate! He writes often of the "religion of the Spirit." He tells us that the quality we get from Jesus is His spirit.

Those clasped hands impress me. They tell me of his inner repose and peace. This man of action compels my admiration. Yet his deepest significance is not what he has done, but what he is.

Many thanks to you, for I shall often look at this Man of God (Did you see that characterisation of him by Emory Ross in the Christian Century of August 3rd?).

It is very kind of you to offer to take my picture. We shall tarry here as long as the pleasant weather lasts. Last summer we stayed till October 20th, it was so beautiful. You will probably be down in New York before we get back to Middlebury.

It is just as well. I never take a good picture. I must tell you frankly that I dislike sitting for one. So please excuse me.

All the same, I appreciate your kind offer.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Everett Skillings.