Letter: Frederic Bancroft to Ida M. Tarbell, May 13, 1907

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May 13/07

My dear Miss Tarbell:

There were so many things I wished to talk over with you!

Regret ran through my head like an endless chain. Pray advise me a day or two in advance when you are coming, again, and save time for a luncheon or a drive, or better, both. I'm always glad to drop everything for special friends and congenial long talk. But surprises and social formalities — well, no matter.

It was very sweet of the dear old lady — after what you can only guess! Don't guess! — It was no slight satisfaction to learn that you & I seem to be of one opinion, or fully understand each other, as to that matter with so many angles. You will easily be able to explain what my attitude will be, by considering all the conditions known to you.
Any one of the four could do the present task much better than I. It would be very painful to me to have you let it crowd either (or say nothing of (both)) my own historical book or a sentimental literary fancy I have cherished and prepared for at odd times for nearly a score of years.

If R.O. can't be induced to write a concluding sketch without troubling himself by going into the M.B.'s, then there would be possibilities if they should come to a conclusion favorable to publishing that work. I could surely get Prof. Demming to do the sketch & cooperate with M (as we were classmates & have been intimate for over 20 years), & that would change the problem entirely, if there were more "business" & less apron-strings.

In S.C. I spent two days at the foot of a lady whom you could probably win into a mine for your Magazine. My letter is already too long. I hope you will write again soon. Excepting about May 30th, I must await the Confederate reunion, I shall be here until August. Sincerely yours.