

AMHERST  
MASSACHUSETTS

December 1, 1941

Dear Ida Tarbell:

What a wonderfully fine letter you have written me about my new book. It has given me the greatest pleasure and encouragement. After the book was finished I had quite a touch of what amateur hunters call "buck fever." It dealt with events that happened so far away and long ago that I doubted whether any considerable number of people would care to read it. But the response has exceeded my expectations, and I am now encouraged to go on with a second volume. I told the people there at Scribner's that I would not write another book unless this one showed signs of life. Incidentally, I have greatly enjoyed the last year or so of my work -- since the completion of that horrible biography -- for I have been writing on subjects that were warm in my mind, and I have been under no pressure whatever.

It is good to have the encouraging news that you are improving and continuing to take the hopeful and courageous outlook upon life for which I have always known you. I should think the quietude of the Connecticut country would be a great help.

With many regards in which Mrs. Baker joins me, I am with much affection,

*Thank you for what you say  
about the Pulitzer Prize.* Ray Sommers Baker

Miss Ida Tarbell  
Bethel, Connecticut