

1937-11-10

# Letter: Josephus Daniels to Ida M. Tarbell, November 10, 1937

Daniels, Josephus

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México, November 10, 1937.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

The interview which was published in the New York Times of October 31st brought back to my wife and myself very pleasant recollections of old associations. I was among your first admirers and read with great interest your story of the Standard Oil Company which opened the eyes of the American people to the evils of monopoly. You did a great work and I wish that you had successors who would dig as deep and let people know how they are being mulct by the trusts which, in spite of laws, still get rich by exploiting the natural resources and industries of America. I have no objection to any man getting rich; on the contrary, I rejoice when a man, by his genius or ability, amasses a fortune, provided he does so in open competition.

But I didn't start to write a homily on monopoly, but to tell you how much I enjoyed reading what you had to say, particularly the following extract:

"At eighty I suppose it is natural that one should cling to old things. Yet even when I was young there was one old thing to which I clung and to which I still cling. At the risk of being called old fashioned, I proudly confess I still believe in my Bible. If in the past more people had accepted its spirit we should not have had the bad old days; if more people will believe in it we shall have good new ones."

We have been surfeited with a number of remedies for all the ills and problems of life. Some of them are very good and will help, but you have put your finger on the only light by which the feet of human beings may tread safely.

Last May when I reached my 75th birthday a newspaper friend asked me to write my observations. I did so and I am enclosing a copy herewith. I wish they were half as good as yours.

My wife joins me in warm regards.

Sincerely yours, *Jesse A. Daniels*