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Miss Ida M. Tarbell
c/o MacMillan Co.
64 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Madam:

It is almost incredible that a person with a most ordinary amount of education, let alone one who is able to write a book, as you did, on Napoleon Bonaparte, would display such lack of knowledge ~~and~~ of simple facts, as you do.

I could not trust my eyes when I read in your book (which was referred to me) on page 22 thereof, the statement, "- possessing the Italian indifference to truth and the rights of others". You referred, by this statement, to Napoleon, in particular.

I believe that self-respect on your part should dictate to you to immediately qualify that statement, or have it stricken out altogether, and I, as an author, and one who is vitally interested in the study of sociology and of the vital topics of the day, which go to make history, ask that this be done at the most convenient moment.

I should imagine that a writer would be very careful to indict people as a whole, in the fashion you did. It is surely a very clear evidence of your being ill-informed. It manifests all the evidence of a person who is absolutely ignorant of simple facts, as well as of the character, sentiment, aspirations and lofty principles of these people.

The statement is absolutely false. It is contrary to all facts, and in fact, closer study of the Italian people would show the very opposite to what you stated.

When you contrast such a statement with millions of essays and books written by foreigners, to these people, exalting them to the highest peaks; classifying them as most dependable people with strong tenacity to truth, and with lofty principles and ambitions - then your statement becomes miserably unfortunate.

It is so impossible to believe, that I question, "Did I read correctly?" Yet, the statement is there.

Yours truly,

Vincent Calenda
ms.