

W.H.C.
John H. Clarke
El Cortez Hotel
San Diego, California

MAY 23, 1939

MISS IDA TARBELL
120 EAST 19TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

MY DEAR MISS TARBELL:

I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR SENDING ME THE CLIPPING FROM THE VINDICATOR WITH YOUR MEADVILLE COLLEGE INTERVIEW, AS OTHERWISE I SHOULD NOT HAVE SEEN IT. I RECEIVE THE DAILY VINDICATOR, BUT AS IT COMES FOUR OR FIVE DAYS LATE AND AS I HAVE NOT LIVED IN YOUNGSTOWN FOR MANY YEARS I AM AFRAID I DO NOT READ THE PAPER AS CAREFULLY AS I SHOULD.

YOU MADE A VERY INTERESTING STORY OF THE INTERVIEW AND I AM ESPECIALLY PLEASED THAT YOU REQUESTED THAT THE EXCERPT FROM YOUR AUTOBIOGRAPHY CONCERNING MR. WALKER BE PRINTED. ASSUREDLY YOU HAVE FULLY DISCHARGED THE OBLIGATION TO THE MEMORY OF MR. WALKER WHICH YOU FEEL DUE TO YOUR EARLY FRIENDSHIP. I AM VERY SURE THAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN EAGERLY READ BY ALMOST EVERYONE STILL SURVIVING OF THE OLDER GENERATION.

I HAVE READ WITH GREAT INTEREST YOUR "ALL IN THE DAY'S WORK" AND MUST CONGRATULATE YOU UPON HAVING LIVED SUCH A VIGOROUS AND USEFUL LIFE - VERILY LIFE HAS BEEN A GREAT ADVENTURE FOR YOU. I AM GREATLY PLEASED ALSO TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE WELL AND STRONG ENOUGH TO LECTURE TO THE CLASSES AT THE COLLEGE AND THAT YOUR OUTLOOK UPON LIFE CONTINUES TO BE SO OPTIMISTIC. I AM NOT QUITE SURE THAT I SHARE IN FULL MEASURE YOUR HOPEFUL OUTLOOK, ALTHOUGH I DO NOT DWELL UPON IT, ADVISED BY EXPERIENCE AS I AM THAT OLD MEN ARE PRONE TO EXAGGERATE DIFFICULTIES WHICH SO OFTEN HAVE PROVED TO BE MERE CHALLENGING PERPLEXITIES TO BE OVERCOME BY THE NEXT GENERATION.

I LIKED YOUR AUTOBIOGRAPHY SO MUCH THAT I SENT FOR, AND RECEIVED ONLY YESTERDAY, COPIES OF YOUR LIVES OF LINCOLN AND OF NAPOLEON. IF OUR SPIRITS SHALL KNOW EACH OTHER IN ANOTHER STATE OF EXISTENCE I SHOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY YOUR HAND, OR RATHER YOUR FERTILE BRAIN, AS A LAWYER. IN THIS EARTHLY LIFE YOU CERTAINLY HAVE THE QUALITIES WHICH ARE DEEMED HIGHEST IN THE MAKING OF A LAWYER. I MEAN, OF COURSE, CAPACITY TO SEE THE IMPORTANT POINTS OF A LIFE, OR A CASE, AND TO STICK TO IT IGNORING MAKEWEIGHTS AND UNESSENTIALS.

HOPING THAT YOU MAY BE SPARED TO LIVE YOUR USEFUL LIFE AS LONG AS YOU ARE PHYSICALLY COMFORTABLE - BUT NOT LONGER - I AM, WITH GREAT REGARD

SINCERELY YOURS,

John H. Clarke