

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE
NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

April 21, 1943

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
R. F. D. #1
Bethel, Connecticut

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Several years ago the late Mrs. Caro Lloyd Strobell wrote to you in regard to some material on Henry Demarest Lloyd that she believed was in your possession. I believe there were some letters from Mr. Lloyd written at the time when you were gathering materials for your History of the Standard Oil Company. As Mrs. Strobell wrote, I have been gathering material for a biography of Mr. Lloyd. Of course, I am anxious to uncover all material bearing upon his activities that I can find, and it would be a very great favor to me if you could make these letters available.

Since the publication of Alan Nevins' John D. Rockefeller, which makes a blistering attack upon Mr. Lloyd and the accuracy of his Wealth Against Commonwealth, it has been necessary for me to spend a good deal of time checking against the original sources that Lloyd used. I found at the Cleveland Courthouse last summer that the manuscript records and affidavits of Standard Oil Company vs. W. C. Scofield, et al. (Cleveland, 1880), had been removed from the archives without any record of who had them or where they had gone. As I recall, you said back in 1906 that these records had the habit of wandering in and out of the Courthouse, but that you had seen the affidavits and possibly the court record as well.

I stumbled across a certified copy of one of the Bacchus affidavits in the Lloyd papers and also a statement by Mr. Lloyd to you that he had the entire set and would be willing to make them available to you. Do you by chance happen to have these records in your papers along with the Lloyd letters? You will readily understand how important it is for me to see them after Alan Nevins' key comments.

Finally, when the weather improves I hope you will allow me to call upon you and compare notes a little. I should like also to gather whatever recollections you may have of Mr. Lloyd when you visited him at Sakonnet Point in Rhode Island. Needless to say, I shall appreciate greatly whatever assistance you are able to give me in this work.

Cordially yours,

C. M. Destler

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