

BEINN BHREAGH
BADDECK, NOVA SCOTIA

August 26, 1922

My dear Miss Tarbell,

I wish I could see you and have a talk with you, but as that is out of the question I will just have to write instead.

I do so want to consult you about Father's biography, which must, of course be written soon. Several publishers wanted to do it last year, but Father wouldnt hear of its being written during his lifetime. He always said that all the data necessary had been collected and was available at the Volta Bureau.

Mother, of course is viatally interested in the question of who should write it and in the make up of the book and we would be very grateful to you for anything you can tell us about how such things are generally managed and how they are financed.

Personally I wish very much that you could write it.

The account of Father's accomplishments will be compabitavely simple, but Father was so unique and so fascinating as a man that I do not see how anyone who did not know him in his family and up here in Baddeck could possibly appreciate him. Father's boyishness and simplicity, his delightful solitary week-ends in the old houseboat when he tried to feed and clothe himself from what he could find in the woods, his love of going out at night in his bathing suit in a raging storm or battling through snowdrifts, the way he loved to evade Mother's watchfulness and raid the refrigerator for things he knew were not good for him were all elements of a radiant personality that have value in the telling because they belonged to a man who did so much for the world, but, if they are not told with tenderness and a sense of humor and a realization of the simple elemental things of life they could so easily be made to appear mere idiosincrasies.

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And no life of Father can fail to include Mother and the part she has played at every turn. Such dramatic incidents as her resorting to tears to get him to go to the Philadelphia Exhibition in '76 and her giving him \$20,000 of her own inheritance to start the Aerial Experiment Association are only the high lights. Father was peculiarly sensitive to his environment and to the personality of those about him and Mother's untiring attention to every detail of his surroundings ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ as well as her constant enthusiasm and sympathy and encouragement in everything he did had an influence which it is impossible to over estimate.

It needs "a woman's heart and a man's mind" to write an adequate life of Father and that is not only what I feel you have but what other people say of you and that is why I wish you could do it. What do you think of the idea?

I am writing this entirely unofficially, just on my own ~~own~~ account as a sort of feeler.

Affectionately yours -
Marion Fairchild