Letter: Julian Street to Ida M. Tarbell, January 27, 1939

Street, Julian

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Dear Miss Tarbell:

Thanks for your letter.

I don't know why I care particularly about seeing the Steffens story put straight together, but there seemed to me to be so much fraud about him that I resent it when the younger writers and reviewers set such high value on his descriptions of himself and his doings.

I've sent for Mark Sullivan's book. Here, by way of contrast, is a straight thinker & straight shooter.

I am delighted to know that you are doing some recollections and shall eagerly look forward to them. If magazine publication has not been arranged, would they fit the "Past" and if so may I call their editorial attention to the fact that you are doing this stuff?

It amused me to be called a "modern." I just ain't! I'm the old-fashionedest thing a-going. The real moderns confound me, and I can't believe they like all they appear to like.

I do hope we can have a good visit together when mild weather comes. I have,
as you must know, long been one of your student admirers, and it does me good just to think of sitting down with you and having a good talk.

I'm trying to find out what you've been finding out — how to get the most out of myself under existing conditions. Resting after meals or taking such a lot of time. But I get better night after night, I think. It's just a question of how far the progress can be made to go. I look well, but queer things happen when I exert myself or hurry a little.

But I've seen a lot and had a wonderful time of it, and my children are happily settled, and my main tie to interest in life is my wonderful Margaret. I'd like to set really well on her account much more than on mine. I'd like to take her places and give her the grand times she deserves.

Do try to come here! She'd enjoy you as much as I would. Her appreciations are so sincere and so utterly right! Affectionately, Julian.