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Miss. Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th, St.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss. Tarbell:

I have your letter of the 2nd, and will be glad if you will see Macmillans first. We do not quite understand how your "HISTORY OF THE STANDARD OIL COMPANY" could be held at \$70. to \$80., without prompting publication of a new issue large enough to supply the demand.

It has been suggested to me that the owners of the copyright must have been bought off at the same time that the "STANDARD" was said to have bought up the supply by my informant. I note that the copyright was owned by McClure, Phillips & Company in 1904. (This reminds me that it was in 1904 that the Franklin Institute awarded their gold medal to me for additions to science-and that later I sat in the audience and saw the same medal presented to Thomas A. Edison, for the electric light, Alexander Graham Bell, for the Telephone, and Victor Berlaner, for the Victrola-that was some experience-and a huge joke on the Institute-i felt like a "regular Rockefeller") As I read the copyright notice, I also see on the opposite page, your quotation of John D. Jr. about the "American Beauty Rose" -a huger joke.

I judge from the fact that you have to go to Macmillans for permission, that they are the successors of McClure, Phillips. It seems a great pity to me that you could not have owned the copyright for so valuable a work yourself. As I read in your letter of Feb. First; that "there is so little sale for a book of that size and price that (your) publishers have hesitated about reprinting, thinking they would lose money on it", I smile at your innocence, and begin to see a light-oil.

Serpents are subtle beasts-but those that live on "oil"-they are the "smooth" ones. While your book is in our public library-it is not kept in sight, and its use is very much restricted-I doubt if you will get the permission

Faithfully yours.

J. Barber