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Letter: Samuel S. McClure to Ida M. Tarbell, March 2, 1894

McClure, Robert M.

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The Associated Literary Press,
McClure's Magazine.

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New York

March 2, 1894.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

We shall undoubtedly assign you a great deal more work than you suggest in your letter. Your work is extremely satisfactory and there certainly should be nearly an article every month during the coming year from your pen.

I wish you would give us the exact date of your leaving Paris, as I expect to be abroad myself in May and should like to see you there.

I am arranging with Capt. Charles King to give us a series of articles on Napoleon's battlefields, which he will visit in behalf of the magazine, and Napoleon's battles. We are just now getting up a series of portraits of General Grant--twenty or thirty. We should like to do the same for Napoleon, reproducing his portraits in great number, and of course we want photographs of paintings which represent his various battles. That is one idea.

You will be glad to learn that the magazine is making its mark decidedly and is securing a definite and growing circulation. We shall have to print thirty-five thousand copies of the next issue and forty thousand of our May number. We can safely count upon forty thousand all summer, with a gradual increase.

Your articles in the magazine have been extremely successful; they have attracted attention; they are regarded as very strong features. Your work commends itself to all readers for its accuracy and human interest. I hope the time is not far distant when we can properly reward you. If success favors us during the coming year as in the past, we will be able to very largely increase your pay.

I wish you would write us and let us know somewhat of your plans for the future; I mean, for the next five or six years. What kind of work are you fitting yourself for. We all hope you are not planning to get married and thus cut short your career. I wish you would send us a picture of yourself that we could print in the magazine with one of your articles.

The Scribners are very well pleased with your work for them. I certainly think you have succeeded marvelously well as a writer of special articles. I hope you will keep yourself open to a permanent engagement on the editorial staff of this office. You would be most admirably qualified to aid us in carrying out many of our most important schemes.

Very sincerely yours,

S. S. McClure