Dear Miss Tarbell:

Something over ten years ago we planned the production of the HISTORY OF AMERICAN LIFE SERIES in twelve volumes. A little over seven years ago publication started and it was our hope, of course, to carry the project through to speedy completion. There was no question then and there is none now that this series of twelve volumes will furnish a most valuable background and reference library for students of American history, economics, sociology, — in fact all those interested in the development and growth of our country. The fact that completion of the series has been unavoidably delayed has unquestionably worked to the great disadvantage of the earlier volumes in the series. Furthermore the Company has already invested a large amount of money in this series and until its completion we can have no hope of adequate return. The delay is working a severe hardship on us and will continue to do so until the last volume is published. Such a work as this can offer its utmost value only when completed and we are, therefore, making a very special effort to bring out the remaining volumes at an early date, if possible within the ensuing year. We are counting on you to help us out in this emergency.

I am aware that you have been devoting a considerable amount of time to the preparation of your volume in this series and I have hoped that since you have been able to see Professor Schlesinger's completed volume covering the same chronological period as yours, you might be able to bring it to a speedy conclusion. If it is at all possible for you to complete your work within the next few months it will be a great favor to us and at the same time to the other authors in the series. I shall appreciate your assurance that this can be done.

Yours very truly,

Miss Ida M. Tarbell

George P. Brett