

WILLIAM FORTUNE
INDIANAPOLIS

September 30, 1922.

My dear Mrs. Rice:

I was away from my office yesterday afternoon and your very kind note, accompanying the missed letter for me from Miss Tarbell, did not reach me until this morning. Immediately after I had read it your second note was delivered. I deeply appreciate your kind thoughtfulness and graciousness. I hope you will give the mistake no further serious thought. Fortunately, I am protected and aided by very intelligent and discreet secretaries. My immediate thought is to save Miss Tarbell from possible embarrassment, and this could be best accomplished probably by not letting her know about the mistake. If she learns about it and I find that I have been offended I shall, after we are both on the dark and bloody ground of Kentucky, challenge her and we shall then proceed according to the Kentucky code. You, of course, are only an innocent by-stander. I hope you may not suffer the usual fate of such; often the 'innocent by-stander' is the only sufferer, and this may be your unhappy lot, if you are the only one who knows what Miss Tarbell and I should not know, and it becomes your task to keep us from knowing what it might be better for us to not know. My sympathies go out to you at this stage of terrible possibilities.

Your very gracious invitation pleases me and I shall look forward to meeting you with most pleasurable anticipations. I am delighted to know that Miss Tarbell has selected you and your husband to accompany us on the automobile trip through Kentucky, and I join most heartily and cordially in the invitation. I hope it may be worth your while.

I am expecting my senior daughter to accompany me, and I have also invited an old friend of whom I am very fond, Young E. Allison, of Louisville, and his wife, to join us, but Mr. Allison is under rather extreme restrictions now on account of impaired health and may not, I fear, be able to go on such a trip. I hope we may at least have him with us some of the time, particularly at Bardstown. Last year I visited Bardstown with him and Mr. W. K. Stewart, whom Indianapolis shares now with Louisville, and he made it very interesting. He has a friend there who knows much about the Kentucky history of the Lincolns and I am sure Miss Tarbell will be interested in talking with him; he has a story of importance that is all his own.

With much appreciation of your kind thoughtfulness,

Cordially yours,

William Fortune

Mrs. Cale-Young Rice,
No. 1444 St. James Court,
Louisville, Ky.