Notes: Autobiography - War and Peace, Rousville

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Autobiography - War and Peace:

Balzac's new book with the Wilson correspondence in regard our getting into the war is probably as good a document as I could have. In this comment on it Tannett gives no reference to the pressure that was coming through sympathy, something entirely outside the economics.
Autobiography:

There have to be some characterizations of women. I rather think Mary Austin will give material. She was more nearly a woman of free genius than any other of our times, I think.

I should like to make a good sketch of her. Of course I must read carefully the first impression of her - then her time here in New York -/own serious, humorless dramatization of herself. She never found the man she was looking for. I suppose I should not say that I have seen them flying from her. But I can tell of the extraordinary remark of hers to me, "You often have men to lunch - different men. I don't know men. Why can't you take me and introduce me?"

The men were as impersonal to me as the pitcher on the table, or almost, for it was always for some business purpose and I can surely prove that always we had a good time. The complete freedom of any man and woman exchange.

Mary was apt to talk about herself. Then of course the book on Prayer should come in and I think I have the bones of what should be said about it in the notes I made for the Author's Night talk at the National Arts Club. Those are altogether in the Club talks under the head of Pen & Brush talks, I think.
The way a town is made, where the people come from, the families, its earliest background, ambitions, education. There was a crystalizing in Rossville, making something pretty good. It crystalized in the Methodist Church, practically a community church. There was a Mr. Hill cultivated - both of them. There was a Chambers, a fine superior type, he, a boisterous and good-hearted and very able person, born to be rich. There was Dr. Egbert - all the makings there of a society and they came together by virtue of their preference for decency and order and for their common desire that children should be shielded. It was very easy that the rough element and the good nature acceptable should take charge. It did in Petroleum Center, but not there.

The way that an upper crust as they called it, formed itself along the bluff - very interesting. We were above and back. My Father liked to get as high as possible. The way the little square formed itself is interesting - the hotel, the bank, the stores.