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Letter: Ida M. Tarbell to William Trench, May 16, 1932

Tarbell, Ida M.

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May 16, 1931

My dear Mr. Trench:

I think I told you when we talked over the matter of my writing the life of Mr. Young, that the American Magazine wanted, probably four articles, and that these must begin in the fall so as to have no, or as little as possible, political bearing. Mr. Blossom, the editor, and I worked out a plan for four subjects, as it seemed impossible to crowd a satisfactory narrative into the space he had available. The first of these we called "The Emerging of Mr. Young." You see the idea. The second will deal with his boyhood at Van Hornesville and the work that he has been doing there in re-building a community, along present day lines.

The third would deal with his own education and his present efforts for the training and the developing of young men.

We have not quite settled on the fourth, but this will give you some idea of what I now have in hand.

As for the book that will be a straight away biographical narrative beginning with the Dutch flats and carrying on to today. I am writing you all this because I want you to understand before you read the manuscript I am sending the scheme upon which I am working.

I hope you will be perfectly frank with me about the piece I send. I want to know if you find it interesting in the first place - whether you think I have mis-interpreted - been indiscreet and of course if there are errors to point them out. I do not know now just what my program at St. Lawrence is to be but I think I can be in Schenectady a week from this morning if convenient to you we could talk the matter over. I have some ideas of the revision of the article in mind but I shall not trouble you with those now.

Very sincerely yours

Mr. William W. Trench
General Electric
Schenectady, New York