For me those children were a challenging experience. Three years had made the youngsters keen observers and I found them appraising me in the fashion of natural unspoiled children. Launched on one of the long narrative monologues to which I was addicted with intimates I would suddenly be checked by the cool impersonal stare of nieces or nephew. They did not know it but I knew they were taking my measure. They were not only an unending interest and joy to me but a salutary correction.

But before I was really sure of my standing with them though quite reassured as to that with their elders I was snatched away by a hurried letter from Mr. McClure. I must come at once to New York and write a life of Napoleon Bonaparte.

Digital Image, 2013. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

A - as they have continued to do to this day.

B. and just as I had put the finishing touches to my Roland

The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library