THE EMPORIA GAZETTE
W. A. WHITE, EDITOR AND OWNER
W. E. HUGHES, MANAGER
EMPORIA, KANSAS

February 7, 1930.

Dear Ider M.:

Three of those damn chain letters turned up in my mail today. They have been coming in five or six a week for three months.

Thumbs down!

The President wired me just now to serve on the Haitian Commission. I have got to do it; which means I cannot possibly be in New York, March 2, as I shall be on the bounding main. And I am just as sorry as I can be. Things always have happened to me suddenly that way; good things, and the very very few bad things have just jumped out on me apparently without any previous knowledge or connivance on my part. So I go ahead and make my plans and often in the corner of the cosmos the kaleidoscope is shaking fate, and I find myself mixed up in an entirely new unexpected and overwhelming pattern. It's a lot of fun. It adds zest and thrill to life, but it is hard to live with. Sallie, poor girl, has had a lifetime of it. Things always approach her slowly, casting shadows before her, creeping up on her from afar. There is something in the chemical composition of the thing called the human spirit cast at birth which shapes our ends.

Pardon this philosophy, and let me hope that it will for the moment dull the disappointment which you may possibly have at my not coming to your Pen and Brush party.

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#2--Miss Tarbell.

Sallie joins in affectionate regards.

Sincerely yours,

W A White

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th St.,
New York, N.Y.

WAW/MY.

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