AMERICA'S
FUTURE

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FRANK GANNETT, PRESIDENT

505 EAST 45ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.
MURRAY HILL 4-5200

205 East 42nd Street
May 2 1939

Dear Miss Tarbell-

I've been waiting until I could write you when I was not too tired to do what I wanted. I wanted to do justice to your marvellous book, but be pressed by my work & when I put in my fresh hours at it I am not much good. But I am through the hardest part. This morning I am sure I can put in fresh hours. I was greatly pleased and surprised to have you send me a copy, a copy with such a nice inscription. As I read the book I felt its freshness & vigor & greatness & greatness, it suddenly came to me that I had never read an inferior

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piece I work by you. I remember the time
when by the merest chance I first saw
your name, & read a little article
a column power of it for the syndicate
How wonder afterhand paved the streets
of Paris - as I remember it. Our offices
were 743-5 Broadway on the 3rd floor
of the building owned by Charles Scribner's
Sons. This was the very floor where
Roswell Smith & [redacted] G. Holland & Edward
Servoss Mantley. I was walking alone
the front of the office walking north &
in a desk saw this little article I just
happened to glance at it, & saw your
name. Mrs Pratt formerly editor
Wide-Awake who had been on my staff

editing the Month this Department here
mentioned your name to me. So I glanced
at the article & then read it all
crossed the office & said to Mr Phillips.
"When this girl can write for the
Magazine," & so I wrote you. Remember
well how pleased I was with the first
article & with the opening paragraph where
you told about that shepherd boy
of 12 or 14, who was called in to cure a mad
dog & came & some children & killed
the dog with his shoe & came to Paris
& was cured. You described the piece
of statuary in front of the Pasteur
Institute showing the wonderful dog
It was because I was so impressed
with your method & collecting material
in London that I asked you to join the

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staff
What was one of the two or three things I did that made the magazine, the success it was selling was Edwin Phillips,

The Life of Lincoln sealed us from absolute ruin. The year you joined us the magazine had lost $40,000 a month & was in debt $200,000

& we had finally to have let every source of credit. The work is outstanding in many, many ways. You revealed a wonderful & gracious soul in your kindly judgements & many, for your gentle & considerate treatment of me I am very grateful to you. You have as far as is possible for you placed Mr. Phillips right, although no one but me can realize how utterly important he was. He is a very

remarkable personality, his integrity, his mastery, his utter devotion to unselfishness, the greatness of his mind, his essential goodness all endeared him in my mind. I want to say a few words to sort of excuse & explain myself. From the time I started the syndicate in 18[illegible] until 1896, I lived under the most crushing financial anxieties & I was always under the necessity of getting good material, I was always pressed for enough time, & always cut off from — might say from money & credit. So I never had time to look up, or look around. I was always trying to do more than I could do. When I got through, the pressure was gone, my health &

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or a certain sense my judgement were terribly impaired. As I look back I can see it all clearly & I think justly. All of you stand out in my mind & I have time to realize what a wonderful group of beloved & dear people were around me. I have had occasion to read the narration a good part of the Lincoln & the work does & and keep out of the agony & uncertainty & struggle I appreciate them all July. You were always a wonderful personality & a great, great writer.

Are you too busy, or could I ask your judgement on a piece

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I work & I'll be able to send you
in a week or two. It will be only
30,000 to 40,000 words. When do you
return to New York.

With great love & devotion

S. S. McClure

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