Falls Church
April 24th 1901.

Miss Ida M Tarbell.

Your letter and Magazine received, for which accept many thanks. I noted the points suggested in the Magazine article. I will now give the Condition of things as I found them after the surrender of the Confederate Army.

My 3 Sisters and myself, inherited from my father's estate, Containing fourteen hundred acres of fine land, (located) adjoining the home farm of Chief Justice Marshall. Called Oak Hill, in Fauquier Co. Va. In 1861 I joined the Confederate Forces. I left the farms above stated well stocked, and in fine Condition, under good fence, Cattle, sheep, hogs, horses, & colts. More than we had any use for; besides farming implements of every kind, each of the properties had dining mill.

On my return from the Army or at least the prison. Fort Warren, Boston Harbor, Mass

When I moved Eight Months. I found nearly everything destroyed: but the old Homestead standing, fences gone, not even a cow or horse left. I managed to get along by the hardest kind-- My old army horses, with no help of any kind, and I had all to do even a part of the house work.

I have often sat in camp and thought what would become of our sweet old home, and what it would look like at the close of the struggle

Indeed I found it worse than my imagination, negroes all gone, of which we had quite a number

My dear old Mother met me at the door in tears, her youngest gone, killed in battle near "Ashland" Virginia. My half brother Thomas Blackburn Turner.

I have borne it all and still struggling to get along. We had the finest society in old state, which all suffered. to a great Extent, the names of the most prominent are Marshalls. Amblers, Stubblings. Peytons, Carters Dulaneys. Ballings, Randolfs, Washingtons

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and others, who were our neighbors, of whom we had reasons to be proud of, nearly all of them in poor circumstances in comparison prior to the war 1861.

There is three Villages near my old home Salem now Marshall, Rectortown, and our County seat Warrenton, was completely looted by the Federal forces.

The Calvary Company Commanded by Captain Turner Ashby of the valley fame, was the first to answer the call to Harpers Ferry to subdue the insurrection of John Brown, Haslett, Shields Green, Coppic, Stevens and Cook who undertook to invade the soil of our native state.

Thank God I had the pleasure of being present at the Execution of the Invaders. I was then Sergant of Company A. Ashbys Co.

Fauquier Co, has always been looked upon as the garden spot of Virginia The scenery is sublime in the extreme, the Blue ridge Mountain in full View

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her blue grass hills covered with fine Cattle. her lovely streams of free stone water, clear & pure as crystal. air pure and balmy. The Manassas Cars dashing through her winding Valleys her Whistle giving echo to the thirty four years. Who could not feel it, the remainder of days of our youth. not Knowing then what our future would be. I think it needless to write more at this time, but any information I can give you in future, will give me pleasure. Many thanks to Mr Williamson for suggesting my name.

Very Respectfully
R. P. Buckner