Princeton June 26. 1904

My dear Miss Tarbell

Your very generous and considerate letter was very gratifying and at the same time disconcerting — did you ever have up that before?

I want to do the thing; and yet I am afraid the difficulties in the way of doing it are fundamental and insuperable. You see the project requires me to explain myself and my doings before the public. I do not see how I can do this, though I am terribly torn and often have my friends privately by tiresome reminiscence. And yet I cannot but think that there are

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incidents and results in my career, which by their narration might be of service in stimulating those who aspire to good citizenship — and those we are". This latter consideration hints of duty; but then comes the fear that which seems to me duty is a mere fantastic notion, and thereupon the old disinclination resumes its sway.

I appreciate most gratefully your offer of aid, and I am surprised that you are such a stranger with me. I have frequently thought no one could help me so much as you; and it has occurred to me more than once that you and I might family "cook up something" in a summer vacation's freedom from distraction.

I have very lately been approached by a publishing house to do some work

Similar to that Mr. Mc Clure and you suggest; but I have responded by saying that while I had not determined to enter upon such an undertaking, if I did so I was bound to consider the outcome as already mortgaged. I am requested to write two articles for other parties and think I shall do so; but neither of them if I write them, will, so far as matter is concerned, encroach upon the Tarbell — Cleveland fantasy.

I am sorry ~~th~~ I can say no more at this moment than to intimate that it may be well to avoid the effect of New Hampshire air and quiet upon my mental processes.

Yours very sincerely
Grover Cleveland

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
New York

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