HISTORY AND SOCIOLOGY,
University of Kansas.

January 17th,1898

Dear Sir:-

As I am very much interested in Kansas local history I beg leave to call your attention to the article in the January number of McClure's Magazine by D.B. Hadley on "Reminiscences of John Brown."

The facts relating to Brown's exploits in Kansas appear to be much distorted. The testimony of the old settlers here who lived through this period as well as the various published accounts of this early period pronounce this article so far as it relates to Kansas a bit of fiction rather than serious history.

Since 1889 I have been at the head of the Historical Department of the State University and during this period have been much interested in Kansas history.I have had access to the extensive collections of the Kansas Historical Association and have been brought much in contact with the men who survived the early struggles of Kansas.

Among the results of my research are pamphlets and magazine articles and a nearly completed life of Charles Robinson the first Governor of Kansas. It is my zealous interest in this history that encourages me to presume to call your attention to this article especially as it has received considerable just criticism from the local press.

It has occurred to me that a series of articles on the early history of Kansas bringing out the interesting points relating to John Brown,James Lane and Charles Robinson the three great leaders of

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

Kansas would be interesting and profitable. These articles could be well illustrated and the incidents and obscure points of history would help to make a valuable addition to Kansas local history. It would prove of real interest to readers in general because there is, in my opinion, no more interesting and romantic portion of American history than the record of this early struggle in Kansas especially so as local history in this case becomes national. Or if not a series of articles at least one on John Brown carefully and correctly prepared would meet with general approval.

If agreeable to you I would be glad to undertake the task of preparing such articles. I am well acquainted with the country and can have full command of the subject in every respect.

If you desire for more information as to my standing as a scholar and writer, I take pleasure in referring you to Professor H.B.Adams, Johns Hopkins University, Prof. Frederick Turner, University of Wisconsin, Mr. Walter Page, Atlantic Monthly, Dr. Albert Shaw, Review of Reviews and Mr.A.E. Kect of The Forum.

Very truly yours,

Frank W. Blackmar

Mr. J. J. McClure (Co)

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library