THE EMPORIA GAZETTE

August 16, 1921.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

It was three months ago today that Mary was buried, and your telegram has lain unanswered all those days, chiefly, I suppose, because I have not known exactly how to answer it. Not that Mrs. White and I have been crushed and overwhelmed by the blow. We do not discount the weight and its terrible force, and yet we cannot but feel that fate has been kind to us during those seventeen years.

Mary was an exceptional child.

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you will let this letter by my answer to yours, and that you will understand how deeply touched I was by your thoughtfulness and kindness when the blow fell and the terrible loss came.

Sincerely yours,

W. A. White

Ida M. Tarbell,
132 E. 19th St.,
New York City, N. Y.

Full of gayety and joy and quip and persiflage, and of wisdom far beyond her years, and by that token we are tremendously lonesome at the end of three months. Your telegram which has lain here unanswered all this time, still must be more or less unanswered as the whole question of why and wherefore, and themystery of life and death are unanswerable. We are not railing at fate: nor questioning the moral government of the universe because of this event, which is a part of the common life of man. But we do not understand it. No one understand and it is pretty hard to write about it, and answer a telegram about it. I know that

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