

41, ~~Hunnicutt~~ Road May 13, 1939
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I saw an advertisement of your autobiography and ordered it at once, and you may judge of my enjoyment of it when I tell you that I finished it in four sittings, without skipping a word; indeed I often turned back to get the entire picture of some event. I did interrupt the reading to finish Edith Bolling Wilson's "My Memoir," because I had it from a lending library at three cents a day and while I do not hesitate to put a three cent stamp on each of a dozen letters in one hour, my New England blood revolts at pay about a third of the cost of a book for the privilege of reading it.

I felt as if I had met you all over again, and lived over again the pleasant times we had in Washington. Your friendship was the one good thing I got out of the War.

I am very grateful for the pleasant things you say about me, as much so as if I deserved them.

I am inclined to think you gave Mrs. Catt too much praise, - she doubtless deserved it, on other grounds, but my impression was that she took not the slightest interest in the War or our Committee except as it might aid the cause of suffrage. Dr. Shaw dragged her to the meetings and did whatever she advised, but she always left by the first train after a meeting.

How I would love to see you and talk over many things. I want to know what you think of the

President and Mrs. Roosevelt. And also what you think of Mrs. Wilson's book. It has revived my interest in Wilson's administration, and my shelves are piled with Ray Stannard Baker's Life and Letters of Woodrow Wilson, and I am reading them with the greater interest because of what you say in your book about the author. I read with a confidence in the book which I do not always feel in the current biographies of politicians.

And Hitler and the War? I confess I do not think he will fight and I am not as unhappy on that score as I would otherwise be. But I am provoked at those who speak of our entry into the World War as a "tragic blunder." If we hadn't gone in and supplied money, munitions and men, Germany would have won and Hitler might have risen to power, and it would be a fight on American soil with no such certain chance of victory as we should have today.

I'm glad you are giving yourself a little leisure. I am a year older than you are and I have Diabetes and an extreme case of Anemia so that I spend the greater part of my time in bed or on it. I get very much bored, and rather impatient because there are so many things I want to do and which I believe I could do better now than at any other period in my life if I had the strength.

I mustn't wear out your strength, so
Good bye, with much love,

Affectionately,

Clairmont P. Lamar

I meant to say up there, when I spoke of Mr. Baker's books, that he reminded me of something I

had forgotten; that was the interest the first Mrs. Wilson took in doing something about the slums in Washington. She had only been in the White House a short time,- she died, you remember, during his first administration,- and she was instrumental in introducing a bill in Congress on the subject. She was interested in its passage while she lay dying and both houses passed ~~and~~ it, as I remember, without delay on that account, that she might know it was the law before she died. That one item, compared with Mrs. Edith Wilson's whole book, illustrates the difference between the two women.

C. P. L.

Referring to my New England blood, you know I am 'af and 'af, Massachusetts and Connecticut on my Mother's side and all Virginia on my Fathers. I have always lived in the South, but I went to school and graduated from the Packer /and Institute in Brooklyn where I lived with a great Aunt and spent my spare time ~~and~~ cash going to the theatre, the Philharmonics, and the Metropolitan in New York. I thought I would give you a little of my own autobiography!!

I was inter~~ested~~ to see you speak of some one's scheme for a kind of United States of Europe. Have you read "Union Now" ? I haven't, but I have heard a good deal about it.