WELLS COLLEGE
AURORA-ON-CAYUGA, NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

June 17, 1931.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Thank you for your very kind letter of June 13th on my BIOGRAPHY OF AN AMERICAN.

William Winship is a portrait of my father, James William Coffin, who died in 1908. Practically all the essential features of the work are true to fact, save for some little rearrangement in a few places. I had no idea of an allegory in my mind when I wrote the book, though I have always felt that my father was a splendid typical American. I am greatly pleased, therefore, to hear that you took the book for an allegory, for I feel that my idea about my father is proved true.

The Macmillan Company is going to publish my book in October. I hope it will have a wide sale.

I shall always keep your letter, and I thank you again for your generous praise.

Sincerely yours,

Robert P. Tristram Coffin

P. S.--The names in my book are mostly fictitious, for obvious reasons. And of course I can't vouch for the absolute veracity of all the stories told by actual people in my pages! One of them, if not two, were obviously "tall" stories, anyway. I have set them down as I recall them after many years.

R. P. T. C.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th Street,
New York, N. Y.

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