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October 29, 1938

Dear Ida Tarbell:

Thank you very much for your letter of the 27th with the further explanation of that incident of 1918. Your letter, with that of the President, makes an interesting comment on an important issue.

I wish I were where I could see you oftener! There are frequently problems connected with the events that you and I both knew on which I should greatly like to have your sane judgment. As you say, the world as we know it is going to pieces, but it is not because the fundamentals were unsound, but because those fundamentals were not respected and acted upon.

I received this morning a letter written by Wickham Steed to the London Times, quoting my analysis of Wilson's attitude at the Peace Conference toward self-determination, which, as you will remember, became a kind of mystical formula. I tried to make it clear afterwards that

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Wilson never advanced the idea of self-determination without balancing it with the demand for cooperation represented in the international field by the League of Nations. They were the two principles, expressed as state rights and Federal power, which underlie our own institutions. But of course the trouble was that they listened at Paris to the clamor for rights, and forgot the equally necessary principle of cooperation. It comes near to being the trouble with the world today.

As soon as I can get the last Wilson volume out of the way, Jessie and I are going for a short visit to California where we have a daughter living with her two little girls. It is a great satisfaction to have these young people coming along, even though the world they are facing will be a difficult one.

With affectionate regard,

Ray Stannard Baker

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
120 East Nineteenth Street
New York City

I am going to send you another jar of my honey: I had a good crop this year!

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