Madison N. J.

Feb. 12. 1901

My dear Miss Tarbell

You are indeed exceedingly good to me, & I cannot express adequately my thanks for the gift of these noble & truly precious volumes. I certainly do not think that any assistance I may have been to you merits this magnanimous response; but when I consider the theme which they represent, which has so deeply long engaged your mind, I wonder ~~at~~ not at magnanimity in you. It must have been to you an exalted privilege to make such a study of such a life; and I imagine that this life,

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especially after treating effect of Napoleon, must have brought you a certain revelation. I wish you might give the same exhaustive study to the life of another man worthy to rank with Lincoln, and in a still higher field of effort - unique & wholly unsurpassed - D.L. Moody. I will have sent to you the best biography of him so far prepared, though far from being final.

And what if we should also give to the life of Christ, & the records of his influence in history, that attention which we bestow on our most favored themes, what an uplifting we sh^d receive, what an overmastering ideal, what an unutterable impression of the greatness & greatness that transcend all others, & have inspired all that is best in human life! Adequately to know him was the prize for which his chief apostle counted all things but refuse: knowing that in such a knowledge all things else are given us, both for character & for service. Such a study, tho' by no means does it all come by study, I have longed to make these many years, but am too frail in health to undertake it. What does the poor world suffer from so much as it suffers for the want of this high knowledge.

I enclose a note rec^d from my cousin about his clippings you need not return it -

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and a bit of a valentine
just written for one of my
young friends.

Thanking you most heartily
for this biography, I re-
main very truly yours
Henry W. Rankin.

I suppose you have this day
listened to Watterson.

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