40 SUNSET AVENUE
AMHERST, MASS.

Winter Park, Apr 15 38

Dear Ida Tarbell:

Your letter did me good. Yes, I had quite a siege of it, but I am now, thank heaven, on my way up and out. There seems to be nothing fundamentally wrong except a stupid inability to learn that I am not as young as I was a few years ago. I came down here with one, fell an easy victim to a germ, which always strikes at one's weakest point. Result, a number of weeks in bed.

It was unfortunate wholly wasted! I did a lot of most interesting, if desultory reading, and I planned out the greatest

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book in the world!! — which I shall probably never write. Incidentally, I had wonderfully fine attention: Jessie was a perfect triumph: good companion, nurse — and boss! And lots of good friends.

We are on our way home next week. Florida is beautiful, but the thought of spring in New England is irresistable.

I am glad to hear that you came down as far as South Carolina, sorry you didn't come farther! Mine thought so often of those delightful meetings in New York last winter —

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which centered around your birthday. How do you go on doing it year after year so wonderfully! It makes me feel guilty already.

I'm working on vol VII of the Wilson — determined to finish the thing off this year if it is a possible thing. It has dragged on far too long already.

With warm regard
Your friend
May Stannard Baker

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