BECK MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
980 EAST 180TH STREET
NEW YORK
TELEPHONE 340 TREMONT

Sept. 15, 1917

Dear Miss Tarbell -

I am both glad and sorry to hear that you are in Johns Hopkins. Glad because I hope you are to be so much better than you have been for a long time, when you leave, and sorry that you must have the pain and discomfort of being there. However that last reason seems a poor one for being sorry. I am a great believer in pain and discomfort for I think most of us grow tremendously through them and they do help us to be more sympathetic with others. Not that you need much help in this line. Perhaps the greatest drawback to being sick is that it does interrupt one's work. We do

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get our greatest satisfactions out of this until we find ourselves quite selfish and feel that we must work. It is not always altruism that drives us on but real down right selfishness. You see I am trying to put different points of view to make you as unselfishly sick as possible, and if it is not really serious you may get a great deal out of it. The Summer has been such a good and helpful one. I have been in the fields and woods and upon lakes all of the time and have had a fine rest. Better than usual I think. Perhaps the Good Lord gave it to me because this year promises to be hard. A lot of our good workers have died during the Summer and between 25 and 30 of our best young men have gone off to the war. It leaves us so short handed that many of us must assume added burdens and responsibilities. However I know we

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shall come through somehow. Gerald Murphy was so grateful for your kindness to him in Washington. I was sorry he could not find something for I can think of no greater crime than that he should go to the trenches. I believe it makes most of the men who go, but somehow I feel that it would break him. He is so differently constituted from any man that I have ever known and has a nature that is like the most delicate instrument. He has no gift for being a soldier but he could serve his country so well in some other capacity. They are expecting a youngster in December. Our days are delightful here just now and as yet we have had no September humidity. But and I are enjoying electricity which was put in this summer and had added greatly to our convenience. Perhaps you knew that Mr. Phillips had taken rooms in the house just next to ours. They are wonderfully large, and attractive. Something like the

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ones you had on 9th St. May the days be short and the time pass quickly until you are with us in perfect health. With much love

Faithfully yours—

Maitland Bartlett

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