120 War

Westfield, N.Y.
July 30th. 1915.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell

Madam:—

This must be the last great war. Will you not help make it so? It would not be a pleasant task, but it would be a very great service to humanity if something you could say to all the civilized nations of the earth would so impress upon them the frightful calamity of war that its repetition would henceforth be impossible. I know of no living author who is better fitted to gather up the details and put them in such forceful array as to

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make folks fairly see and feel the sufferings of the starving and freezing millions - the innocent and helpless victims of The Great Devastation (which would be a good title for it). Can you not go to Europe with the publicly announced intention of seeing, hearing, feeling and telling the sad story of the heart-rending sufferings of the poor, the wicked waste of human life, the wanton destruction of the priceless treasure of the ages, and the impoverishment of the whole world. Occasional magazine articles would pay your expenses. Mr. Wilson, Mr. Bryan, Mr. Taft, Mr. Roosevelt, and other men known abroad, advocates of peace, would gladly give you letters which would admit you to all circles & places.

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Leaving out all historical and diplomatic studies as to causes &c., and all conclusions as to results, two or three volumes of what people see and feel and suffer, in such simple and forceful language that the readers fairly feel the agony of it all, will make future generations wonder that a race of men ever lived who could do and suffer such things.

The whole object would be to show war as so abhorrent and unutterably wicked that men will instinctively turn to the Prince of Peace, and joyfully welcome his coming and submit to his reign.

Do not fear to go forth on this avowed mission of preparation for the coming of the King, for his servants will not lack and he will be their defense and shield. Others will have their part in the great work, and all will share in the glory of its accomplishment.

These thoughts are not mine. I should not feel at liberty to present my own ideas or wishes in this way, but they came to me while on my knees praying for the coming of the Prince of Peace, and I feel that this goes forth as his message. If his providences have made it possible for you to undertake the work, I am sure his blessing would make it an inestimable benefit to the world. If it could be published without copyright, so that it could be reprinted everywhere, it would have a tremendous influence on the opinions of mankind everywhere.

Very sincerely, F. B. Brewer

it is not my message. F.B.B.

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