The American Magazine
381 Fourth Avenue
New York

Advertising Department

Amherst, May 26.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I had your note of the 21st on my return from Wisconsin. It is fine of you to write me as you do. It is somewhat difficult to adjust oneself to a thing of this sort. In December when my father was here in Amherst he seemed in the picture of health and strength, and I said that he never in his life felt more vigorous either mentally or physically. He was stricken quite suddenly six weeks ago and although for a time he seemed to rally he finally grew worse and after

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Baker,
suffering great pain — for he fought with death as he had fought in life — he passed away. His nine sons and daughters were all at home, the big house was full and at the funeral the old soldiers — those who remain — were there with their flag. He was a man of rugged character and of the highest ideals, as clean a man in every way as I have ever known. Though he was deaf for years as a result of his war experiences no one ever heard him complain, and he never for an instant stopped fighting. In the last year of his life he also began to lose something of the sight of his indispensable

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eyes, but he took that, too, with undaunted spirit. He was a man somewhat of the type, I think, of the old English squire: he was proud of his ancestors, he loved the land, he wanted a big house and lots of people around him to fill it: he considered himself responsible for all the old aunts and cousins of the family. He loved books & was an omnivorous reader along many lines: in the day while I was at home I went through many of his books & read the patient, old-fashioned marginal-noting. He never

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wrote any thing, but was a very enter-
taining talker: he loved ~~his~~ learning
without any ulterior motive. He kept
fully abreast of the times: he put his
belief in conservation to the test by
planting hundreds of acres to young
forest, and he was as stiff a contro-
versialist in politics and religion
as you would find in a day's journey —
and often testy after he had proved
his case to his own satisfaction
and you still did not assent. He
was a real man — Major Baker; only
one of his sons was his equal, and
that son died nearly six years ago
at the age of 36 — the hardest blow
the old soldier ever had.

I don't know why I should write this to you
but I have been very full of the whole thing — and it
has all gone deep. With sincere best wishes RGB

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