

Fort Logan, Colorado,

April 4th, 1896,

To Ida M. Tarbell

Washington, D.C.

My dear madam:

Mr McClure

having kindly sent me a copy of the April number of his magazine, I have just finished reading the concluding chapter of your Napoleon, and I am greatly pleased with it; As soon as I can find the time I shall get the book and read it all, though you do not pretend to describe the campaign much in detail; yet what you write interests me, because there is so much life and fire in it; and you seem to have used such good judgment in culling out the striking sayings and calling attention to the striking deeds of our great hero, Someday, perhaps, if I ever find the time I may, from a military point of view, write a brief history of Napoleon's

campaign in France against the allies.
This campaign has always had a charm for me, there on the defensive he fought like a lion, and struck offensive blows which exhibit an audacity so bewildering that no one can help ~~him~~ being astonished at the depth and breadth of his mighty genius against such mighty odds. Though compelled to yield at last by the force of circumstances, this brief campaign in France is in many respects one of the most remarkable in his wonderful career. Here we see what he could do in retreat. Here we see what he could do when the onrushing rank of his numerous and determined enemies was carrying everything before them. He was masterful; he was grand. His every movement was war; war, planned and carried out by a master. War, made by one who knew exactly where and when to strike and

how to parry. Think of what he did
with 60,000 against 600,000 before Paris;
and ^{then} of what Grouchy did with 30,000
at Waterloo, Napoleon could hold off
ten times ~~xxx~~ his own numbers
for days and win battle after battle;
Grouchy could not hold off a defeated
army as many hours; could not
hold off a defeated army long enough
for Napoleon to win at Waterloo.

But I did not intend to write so much
when I began. I hope you will have great
success in your future writings and
meet with much success in the
sale of your Napoleon.

Very sincerely yours
W. H. Largent