

Hotel de la Conyue
Vence

(A.M.)

March 4th 1921

Dear Miss Tarbell -

I was much touched & deeply
valued your kind thought and it is
a delight to read the letters you write
to our Bert and which he sends me
faithfully - What an ideal friend
he is, and what a passion he has
for being of service to all whom he
comes in contact with! Thanks
to him I have kept in close touch with
you and feel inexpressibly grateful
that it is so - Naturally I have
had a constant desire to write you
But my mood for the first time
since 1914 has been a sad one -
During the war one's hopes carried
one through - And the work - Now
hope seemed hopeless - The work
remained, thank Heaven! but
what could one write when one
felt so depressed - Being a witness
to all the French have suffered, and
are still suffering, the apparent
success of the propaganda, conscious
or unconscious, against France and

in favor of Germany - the constant
point of view of a part of the
financial & business community, that
the situation of Germany was not
understood or appreciated - makes
one feel horribly depressed. Being
in intimate touch with the human beings
innocent victims of Germany's brutality
and thirst for domination - with
individual people, women & children
mostly, whose lives are an almost
impossible struggle - I asked myself
if it could be possible that there was
no human justice. Are the innocent
to suffer while those who wronged
them go scot free? The speeches
of German leaders grew in insolence.
The last ones of van Simons were packed
full of infernal lies. What a way
for statesmen to treat their own people.
Day was right & night was day -
Germany did not want the war and was
not responsible for it, etc. - was
thenceforward asserted as the truth -
But what else could be expected of
them? Almost every man at the heart
of affairs in Germany to-day is a
personage of the old regime. But
if the leopard cannot change its spots
it can, in other countries, camouflage
them somewhat. Evidently the Russian
leopard cannot do that.

And I was wondering what
the allies of France would do in answer

to the growing attitude of the German
 orte parole - when this morning in the
 1 Nieu paper that I get regularly, comes the
 ful report of Lloyd George's speech on
 behalf of the Allies in answer to the
 propositions van Simons had brought to
 London. I did not expect so clear & frank
 a statement from the wily L. G. and I
 valued it the more. It was high time some
 elemental things were said, and plainly, so
 that the German people could have a clear
 idea of the situation as the Allies see it
 - and not as their "Captains of Industry" their
 Imperialistic Pan Germanists have it
 specially described to them in their newspapers.
 I think of a Herr Stinnes owning more than
 80 papers & controlling their news & their
 opinions - What chance have the Germans
 to know the truth?

What the next thing will be. I do
 not know and I doubt if anyone does -
 But, at any rate, so far so good. This had
 to be said - Much depends upon the
 course of America in International
 Affairs - Frankly, I have no hope on
 that side - The Cabinet seems to me
 very weak. Hoover being the exception but
 I think Hoover is not the man he was. He
 has said such strange & contradictory
 things since his return to America that I
 can't help feeling he worked too hard, carried
 too big a load. Pity! for he is in a way
 the great figure of the war, and his work
 is admirable, flawless - and was

almost impossible. As to Hughes whom you know very well and of whom you thought very highly in years past, I have no confidence in him for the post. He is honest - *le va sans dire* - But he is a fanatic - - - and when he ran against Wilson how he lacked the courage to come out with a clear cut policy - with ideas & feelings of his own.

Everyone who has seen & talked w/ Harding seems delighted w/ him - He gives the impression of being in agreement with everyone he talks with - I hope that is not true but if it was - to be all things to all men, to please everybody - is a fatal mistake.

I do not know why I should inflict upon you these thoughts of mine which will very probably seem to you absurd - Of course - I have been away from home for a long time and there is nothing like being on the spot to seize upon men or situations - That, by the way, may be a reason why it is so difficult to rightly seize upon the European chaos from Washington. The mistakes of the A. R. C. were made because the work in Europe was directed from Washington - The State Department needs a big American at its head but it's a pity one was not chosen who has had an intimate knowledge of European affairs. Perhaps such a man does not exist. *Mais cela ne s'apprend pas en me fourrant les affaires étrangères*.

All this is besides the point for
after all I wanted to write my friend and
not burden her with thoughts of mine on
subjects that are too complicated and too
big for me - It came about that I
wanted you to know why I had not
felt in a mood to write - Moreover
Lacking no Secretary it being too expensive
I must write all my correspondence by
hand while I am down here - And that
means an average of 15 letters a day,
strictly business letters - I can think of
Conrad having an easier time - And
our work is full of unexpected happenings
of sudden situations that have to be met
and met in the right way - It's not
always easy to know what the right
way is. We are building a Sanatorium
at Berck for some glandular tubercular
children - and an adjunct to it in the
shape of a *ferme Ecole* - It's engrossing
work, but, believe me, planning right so
that every bit of ground is utilized to the
best advantage, so that the establishment
may be a model of its kind, so carefully
arranged that its workings will be as
easy as possible, is some task. The
architect has been here twice for a week
& you should see up all the working like
an eager boy on plans - "*Surtout pas
d'architecture, monsieur*" *mais du pratique*!
And all the poor fellow was taught at the
Ecole des Beaux-Arts is architecture!
It goes on much though even if I say it

who should not. And the Sanatorium
will also be an Institut of Research
of which the need is very great —
The point is when we go to leave
behind us some permanent institutions
that will continue to do good long after
all of us are in the beyond —

We had still about 1000 children
at the beginning of the year. But are
reducing gradually & shall have less
than half I hope by the end of 1921 —

But we have organized a service — to
visit the children who have left us and
their families in their homes or makeshift
apartments in the devastated regions —
It is a question of giving such material
help as they may be in need of till
conditions become more normal
but it is above all the keeping up
of the moral factor, of relations of
trust and friendliness so that these
people may feel that we continue
to be their friends —

You see there is the blessed work
to give one's heart a energy to and
to keep one busy —

I am so happy to be able to be
near — if not in Paris — in close touch
with everything — Of course I would
rather be at the old office but
winters in Paris are forbidden —
henceforth — or in New York —

It is a lovely country this
hill district back of what is called
the Riviera — You see the sea, even
the white caps on the sea when it is

about - And yet - it is at the antipodes
of Nice only $3\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour by motor, or of
Cannes - Another world - There all that is
to one most objectionable in civilization -
gambling, loose women, pretentious hotels
& villas, a horrible population living on
the foot of pretentious rich - Here the
absolutely quiet back country, a little town
w/ an ancient cathedral begun in the 11th century
and built over a Roman temple, some 3000
inhabitants mostly peasants - From this
most unpretentious & cheap hotel, I step
in the olive orchards, the wine grape land
terraces, the tiny vegetable patches - Then
hills all around - Their big noble farnes
like of friends looking down calmly and
serenely upon you - In the distance the
snow clad peaks - Everywhere gullies
& ravines w/ torrents rushing down gayly
& singing as they bound over the rocks -
Here and there old villages perched like
eagles' nests on the tops of the steep hills -
It is wonderful & varied - And the
air is cold, dry, and a tonic - And the
sun shines often - is warm & friendly -
I had thought of going back to Saint
& trying to do some things - I have not
the time. It is a great temptation & I
may do it still -

And I am really feeling fine - Can't
walk much as fast but apart from that
am or rather feel just as well as ever
This will show you that all your labor
of love during my illness, all your
sympathy and your prayers have not

been in vain - I love to think of
those days and of the devotion of the
dear friends who helped me come out
of my trouble - It was so extraordinary
and so nice that you should have been
there at the time - and after the fears
of separation - the same friend -
am looked up to with the same respect
& added affection - You'll never quite
know what that all meant to me -

I shall be home this year at
the end of the summer when I mean
to invite myself to your country home
which I do not know and which, do
you remember, I can describe as well
as if I had known it - And I hope
Dert will be there also - altho when
I think of him I only wish that which
he wishes - and certainly he is in this
European world of misery, one of the
wisest and the best Americans we can
send to represent us - I have come
to use for my friends the old formula of
begging they had in Italy a hundred years
ago - "do well by yourself" Don't I
feel satisfied.

Selfish note this is - All about
myself - Am sorry & must ask
to meet between the lines that I am
truly and affectionately

Yours friend

Wm. L. Garrison