132 East 19 St., New York City,

September 26, 1919

Miss Frances E. Simpson,
122 High St.,
Hartford, Conn.

Dear Miss Simpson:

You must think me a very ungrateful person. Certainly I would be if I allowed so appreciative a letter as yours of July 14 to go unnoticed.

The fact of the matter is that when your letter was written I was in the Northwest and my apartment in New York was empty. The letter sent there lay unopened until I returned at the end of August. Even now I have been too long in getting around to it, but I found matters pretty well crowded when I came back.

I [illegible] you find that the "Ri[illegible] through wh[illegible] went in the war. I put it down very simply of course, just as I saw it. If I had longer time and were not so hurried the book would have been a much better piece of work, but conditions were such that I had to rush it through. As a matter of fact, I did not have a chance at all at the proofs as I was obliged to go to Europe just after putting the manuscript into the printer's hands and never saw it again until the book was on the market. However, if anybody finds in it something of what you have evidently found, I shall feel that, in spite of its faults, it has not been quite in vain.

Your suggestion about carrying on the story interests me. I confess I would like to do it, but they will all have to live a little while before there will be much to write about. Thank you heartily for your letter.

Very sincerely yours,

Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.