

The Beechwood,  
Summit, N. J.  
Jan. 26th, 1925.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,  
120 East 19th St.,  
New York City.

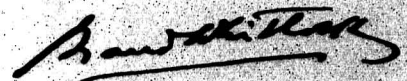
Dear Miss Tarbell,

I was delighted to have your ever so kind letter and I am awfully sorry that I cannot make the speech in the Town Hall on Lincoln's Birthday. The cause of course, is one that appeals to me for the only thing, ~~that~~ I see it, that can stop the ruin wrought by what Frederic Harrison, just before he died the other day, referred to as democratic vulgarity, is education; to this favour have we, like poor Yorick, come at last!

I am out here trying to finish a book that was to be done long ago and have had to refuse all invitations and must continue so to do until I get the book done. You will understand, I am sure, my situation. To make a speech would require not only the time necessary to go into New York and deliver it, but it would necessitate a lot of preparation and I cannot now take that from my book. I am refusing an invitation to go to Springfield, Illinois and speak on Lincoln's Birthday and another to go to Ohio and as much as I dislike to refuse you and Mr. Finley, I can see no other way out of my perplexity. I hope to have the book done in three or four weeks and then I should like to see you, as would my wife.

I trust that you are well and that all is well with you.

Ever sincerely yours,



BW:G.

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