

Naples August 22 1930

Miss Ida Tarbell
New York

Dear Miss Tarbell;

I have received your kind letter of August 9, which caused to me a great joy; I thank you very much for your recollection. I did not know anything about you during the whole second half of my stay in the States; I can say that I actually have lost sight of you after february or so. On the other hand I was awefully kept busy at first by my lectures and afterwards by my courses in Chicago. I don't think that I have anything to forgive you; I conversely think that you must pardon me my long silence.

At any rate I'm so very much delighted of my coming in touch with you again, and of my meeting you in the spirit if not in the flesh.

The earthquake left my family and myself quite untouched. We had moved a few days before to Anacapri to spend over there a week of rest and peace. The house where our pension was was entirely left aside by the earthquake, if I can express myself this way; we slept safe and sound the whole night without realizing the least shivering at all, and we knew only the day after what really had happened. I sometimes wonder if God Himself has saved us, so strange and unusual appears to me the whole matter.

I'm very glad to tell you that I'm just about to leave for the States again. I have been appointed Carnegie visiting Professor for the next academic year. In this capacity I shall go at first to the University of Virginia and at the University of Nebraska during the second half of the year.

I enjoyed tremendously my staying and my teaching in Chicago. I've got there the greatest experiences of my life. I guess you know this old plan of mine to build up in Chicago a Museum for history of religions. Well it seems that these gentlemen are firmly decided to bring about this project. I had many conversations in Chicago about the whole matter and I've got the impression that they are quite in earnest about it. I know too that they would like to have me there. Maybe this is an opening for the future. I'll write later on about these things.

I wish to tell you, dear Miss Tarbell, that I found in America a quite new life, a new source of inspiration, a stronger moral life and that I am very much grateful to your country for this huge benefit. Now I fully realize how much I love this dear America of yours, and how necessary it is for me to go to the States again. My wife and my whole family agree with me perfectly.

I hope that all is well with you and with your family, and I do hope that in the next future it will be possible for me to meet you.

With all good wishes I am

yours faithfully

V. Maerlow

My next address in the States is: University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia.