Stuart Gerber

It would be fine if Miss Tarbell would consider including in her preface the following points:

1. That although it has been said (in the American Magazine articles) that she was writing an "authorized biography", would it not be more proper perhaps to say that she is the "authorized biographer."
2. Then say that the manuscript has not been read by Mr. Young or approved by him, that the facts and information used are the result of many trips to various parts of the country in which she interviewed Mr. Young's friends; that no list of his friends had been given her, but there were certain obvious ones about whom she knew and wherever she went they referred her to still more - he has a host of friends in all walks of life; that the only information which Mr. Young gave her himself was in their many chats together covering merely the period of his childhood and school days - a period where many of the people familiar with the facts are now not living. Therefore, excepting for this period, she has relied wholly on Mr. Young's public statements and upon interviews with his friends.
3. Knowing Miss Tarbell's generosity and because of it, we make the suggestion that none of us who have looked over the manuscript or given facts and information should be included in "an acknowledgment paragraph" - let's not have any acknowledgment paragraph!

Digital Image, 2011, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

Miss Tarbell indicates that she is going to write a final chapter. It would certainly be very regrettable if as good a critic as she did not make this chapter a real and critical analytical appraisal of Mr. Young. She certainly must know by now that he has some faults. Just at the moment the book reads like one of Stue's "hero worship" talks.

Digital Image, 2011, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.