

August 24, 1920

Mr. S. S. McClure,
Brockfield Center,
Connecticut.

My dear Mr. McClure:

I found your interesting letter of the 19th when I came into town from the week-end. It is mighty interesting to know that you are reading our Life of Napoleon, and I am mightily pleased that you think it well done. I don't know whether I should or not. I don't believe I shall have the courage, if I have the time, to read it through. It is curious how thoroughly ended a piece of work is for one when it is put into book form.

Now, as to the loss of life in the Napoleonic wars. I haven't the remotest idea where I got the statement that 1,700,000 French soldiers were killed in the period. I haven't a note left of the work that I did on that book. I have been so much of a tramp that I have been glad to destroy notes as soon as I conscientiously could. All I can say is that I feel sure I had good authority. I leaned over backwards in my care about figures in those days.

As to the way of getting the loss of life in wars during the last four centuries in Europe, I should say that it ought not to be difficult to get figures. I feel pretty sure that the Boston Peace Society--the one that Ginn established--has estimates. At this moment I cannot get at a set of pamphlets which I have that I think would be helpful for I am moving. I shall probably be in order in a couple of weeks and then I will be glad to look through my stuff and see if I cannot find what you want. If so I will send it to you promptly.

It is very good to hear from you. I hope you and all the family are well. Please give my love to Mrs. McClure.

Faithfully yours,