

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
CHARLOTTESVILLE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 2nd, 1924.

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Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 E. 19th Street,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I wonder if you recall a very interesting evening we once had in each other's company on an automobile journey to hear Woodrow Wilson speak in Jersey City, in 1911.

I have learned to have a very high opinion of your powers of comprehension and analysis of vital men in the nation's life, or in the world's life. Your studies of Napoleon and Lincoln I call to mind.

I have just sent this letter to a very small group of Americans, and I am sending it to you in the hope that you will find time to send me a line or two.

"The opportunity has come to me, quite unsought, to attempt to appraise and set forth to the Republic the character and services of Woodrow Wilson. This is to be done before a joint session of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives and other departments of the national government.

"I am taking the liberty of writing to you in the hope that you might be willing to send me, however briefly, a statement of what you consider were the great qualities of Woodrow Wilson and the fundamental services rendered by him to the Republic and to mankind. What were, in your judgment, the great qualities of Woodrow Wilson? He is not a simple personality. I am trying to arrive at the root value of the man to human society. What, in fact, are "the Wilson ideals", so often alluded to? I trust you may care to send me a word of judgment, and however brief it may be, I shall be grateful for it; and, of course, would make no use of it involving your name without your permission."

I have been asked to do this thing, which is a difficult thing to do. I tried to have others do it. I believe in Woodrow Wilson. I am not concerned with

Miss Ida M. Tarbell - #2

June 2nd, 1924.

having people point out to me his limitations and his temperamental peculiarities. What are the man's great qualities? Why will history light him up with her lamp?

I shall be very grateful to you for a word of judgment.

Faithfully yours,

Edwin R. Alderman

President.