

HERBERT S. HOUSTON

70 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK CITY

November 5, 1937.

My hat is off and up

My dear Miss Tarbell

in your particular honor on your 80th birthday! What a great thing it is to have so completely realized Oliver Wendell Holmes' happy phrase of "aging toward youth" - indeed of all the people I know the world round, I do not know anyone of whom that phrase is so true as it is of you.

I have just returned from Japan where a full round of years is held in particular reverence. When John Finley reached his 70th birthday I wrote and told him to please put down on his calendar for the morning of his 92nd birthday, that I would be a caller bearing my greetings and best wishes. Will you please put down the same thing on your calendar for your 92nd birthday. The reason I say the 92nd as I said to John Finley was because when I was in Japan six years ago, I called on Viscount Shibusawa who was then "going strong on his 92nd birthday", full of honors and full of years. The same thing I feel sure will be true of you and of John Finley.

I have just this moment seen the fine picture of you on the first page of The Villager and read Frank Parker Stockbridge's fine and just tribute. You are indeed an interpreter of your time to those who are living on the earth today and you certainly have a rare gift of telling a luminous story that portrays things just as they are.

Here's hoping that you may live many, many years, my dear Miss Tarbell, to exercise this gift for the refreshing and enlightening of the souls of your fellowmen.

Believe me to be as always,

Yours faithfully,

Herbert S. Houston

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