October 8, 1925

Dr. A. M. Schlesinger
415 Widener Library
Harvard University
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Dr. Schlesinger:

Your letter of October 4 came just as I was putting the final work on my proofs of the Gary. It has been a longer and more difficult task than I realized when I undertook it; but it is out of the way and my mind of course is now turning to Volume IX of your series.

I must have a holiday before I begin real work for I have had none for three years, and am too fagged to take up another difficult task until I have had a little rest. However, I am not too tired to talk about the matter. Above all things, I should like to talk with you. I shall not be here on October 16, but as you promise to be back late in November I shall gladly arrange to see you then, though not on the 17th or 18th as I have engagements on those days up State.

I am writing Mr. Nevins today, asking him if he could give me an outline of his book-- enough at least for me to know how much of a background he is furnishing.

As I see the volume now, it seems to me it should be a study of industrial integration, beginning probably with a tableau of the condition of the elements which have been integrated. Roughly, I think of them as the prospector dealing with raw material, the transporter furnishing means to carry the discoveries to the point where they are needed; the capitalist who must furnish money both for development and means of transportation; the manufacturer and his laborer, and their problems, the markets, the demands. With such a tableau to start with, I have an idea that the succeeding chapters would trace the interplay of these various factors and their growing integration. I think, with such an idea in mind, that most, if not all of the points which I find in your outline would naturally fall into place, and it would give an opportunity to treat the personalities and the more or less unintelligent way which they used the force which was driving them.

I wish you would tell me quite frankly, my dear Dr. Schlesinger, if you think I am on the right track.

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I note what you say about foot notes. Writers who are influenced by journalistic methods, as I have always been, shies at foot notes, and probably when they undertake a thing of this kind are inclined to run to the opposite extreme, wanting to show that they, too, can appear as wide students. I quite agree with you that the number should be kept down to those that are really important.

I shall have much interest in hunting up the physical survivals of the period along the line of work. So far as I know they are not numerous, but there are many of them interesting and valuable.

Although I am leaving town tomorrow, my mail will be regularly forwarded to me so that if you are inclined to give me your reaction to the suggestion that Industrial Integration be the text of the book, I shall receive your letter.

Thanking you again for your kindness in writing me and for the patience, too, that you have shown with my delays, believe me, my dear Dr. Schlesinger,

Sincerely yours

Ida M. Tarbell

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