1722 H St -
Washington
June 6.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I wired you at my business on my way home. I am writing you for pleasure. The House wants me to tell you with what whoops of joy your exceedingly generous offer of the wine was received; and last night we broached the first bottle of wine. The enclosed Ballad was writ under its influence in a few moments, by George Mery, a New Republican par excellance. It certainly expresses our genial mood of inconsequence. Observe that we discretly do not name the wine - The reference to the Ladies Home Journal is a household joke, as

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Martha Briere's serial has not commenced in it — and you may infer the truth from the 2d stanza — which is that fly-time has come.

At any rate, when all's said and done, let me indulge in my favorite sin of soberness and solemnly assure you that everyone of us appreciated your thoughtfulness.

My mind will run to the affairs in winding up. The staff conference today had a chuckle over my tome-stone (Guide to News Dept Ink.) Please ask to see it the moment you get down! I shan't be satisfied at all till you tell me you think I did my duty by me predecessor. And I hope you'll give me permission to engage Miss Farmer and see Grace Johnson or some other newspaper woman yourself. Dan and Mr Clarkson will let us have more help. I did a little judicious

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talking to him yesterday when I was over there, and showed him the extent of the service we have already got organized. Miss Patterson is too gum-shoed with them, and not persuasive. And I assure you, we do need a newspaper woman who does nothing else. The mail brings us lots, the departments need far more attention than formerly, and several newspaper services ought to be fed right along, interviews arranged for, conferences adequately covered, etc. Two people can't begin to do it all. And all of it is worth doing.

I'll write you again tomorrow. I'm not sure I can make all my notes ready tomorrow morning, but I'll try. With love — Gertrude.

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Sorry it's been so long — so sorry it's been so long — G.S.

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