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December 12, 1919.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
132 East 19th Street,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I was of course disappointed at the contents of your letter and of that of Mr. Towne which you very kindly enclosed and which I am returning herewith. I hope, however, that when you get access to your files which are now packed away you may discover some items bearing on the life of Mr. Cleveland.

I should not describe the carrying away of such letters as stealing, but as altruistic salvage, which sounds better and, I think, is more conformable to the actual truth.

Very sincerely yours,

R M McElroy

McE:T

Digital Image, 2009, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library