November 8, 1937

Dear Mr. Duffus:

Dr. Finley has told me that it was you who wrote "Miss Tarbell at Eighty" for The New York Times of November 5th - my birthday.

It is not often that I cannot marshal words, of a sort at least, to thank a friend. But anything that I could say about what you have written seems hopelessly conventional. I really feel very deeply about it for it sounds as if you believed it all. You have heard the little girl's definition of faith "to believe what you know ain't so." I would like to believe all this even if I don't.

One thing I am going to believe and it is very precious to me that you do not mistrust my honesty of purpose as I fear more than one of my liberal friends have and do.

With affectionately gratitude,

believe me

Faithfully yours

Mr. R. L. Duffus
The New York Times
New York City

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