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NINTH AND [illegible] STREETS
PHILADE[illegible] PENNA
FOUNDED IN 1910

August 15, 1923.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

A guilty conscience truly needs no accuser. My temerity in telling you how simple you were in believing that the Standard Oil people had nothing to do with your publishers reacted unfavorably in my own mind. I owe your publishers an apology. I hate a suspicious nature and seldom find suspicions justified.

It is refreshing to meet such a well balanced person-such a good business intellect-such a dispassionate author-such an able writer-such a sound character-and to find ~~it/~~ them all combined in a woman. I was not sure of an answer at all. I am always discounting my chances, and this gives me the opportunity to be gratified when I get an unexpected letter-and one that sounds so sensible as yours.

I have thought of digesting the works of famous authors-to bring out the high points for people who have to conserve their time(as you do). There is so much to read that is good-and I have read so little-that it seems to me there is a growing field for a "digestive system". I think that it should help writers and increase the sales of the better works.

A good many classics are free to any publisher. Copyrights of course do not cover facts, and in works, such as your history of the Standard Oil Company, are many facts that we might publish. It would of course be a sin to take facts from your books without some compensation for the work you did in collecting them. I am not so sure that the publishers are entitled to anything-especially if the digests increase the sale of the books.

Perhaps you may want to suggest some plan whereby we might submit digests of your works for your approval with compensation in accord with the work in each case. I can only hope that writers will be as fair to us as you are to your publishers.

With best wishes for your good health, I am

Faithfully yours,

JOHN PARKER

J. Parker

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East Nineteenth St.,
New York, N.Y.

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