FREDERIC BANCROFT,
BOX 94, METROPOLITAN CLUB,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 13/07

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

There were so many things I wished to talk over with you! Regrets rem through my head like an endless chain. Pray advise me a day or two in advance when you are coming again, and save time for a luncheon or a drive, or better, both. I'm always glad to drop everything for special friends and congenial, long talks. But surprises & social formalities - - well, no matter. It was very sweet of the dear old lady,- after what you can only guess! Don't guess!

— It was no slight satisfaction to learn that you & I seem to be of one opinion, or fully understand each other, as to that matter with so many angles. You will easily be able to explain what my attitude will be, by considering all the conditions known to you.

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

any one of the four could do the present task much better than I. It would be very painful to me to have to let it crawl out either (I say nothing of both) my own historical task or a sentimental & literary fancy I have cherished & prepared for at odd times for nearly a score of years.

If R. O. can't be induced to write a concluding sketch without troubling himself by going thro' the MSS, then there would be possibilities if they should come to a conclusion favorable to publishing the works. I could surely get Prof. Dunning to do the sketch & co-operate with me (as we were class-mates & have been intimate for over 20 years), & that would change the problem entirely, - if there were more "business" & less apron-strings.

— In S.C. I spent two days as the guest of a lady whom you could probably turn into a mine for your Magazine. My letter is already too long. I hope you will be this way again soon. Excepting about May 30 to June 3, when I shall attend the Confederate reunion, I shall be here until August. Sincerely yours, Jeffie Davis

I reopen the envelope to add P.S. Please let me know very frankly if you have any suggestions that will help me to avoid or to get out of any misunderstandings.

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