ROGER Q. MILLS
CHARLES H. MILLS
CORSICANA, TEXAS

May 7th. 1907.

My dear Miss. Tarbell:-

Your letter of the 1st. inst. is to hand and I hasten to send you such things as you have asked for namely the McKinley-Mills letters and the Crisp-Mills letters.

The cordial relations between William McKinley and Col. Mills began many years ago when there was an election contest between McKinley and Warwick as to the district which they came from in Ohio. Warwick was a democrat but Mills believed that McKinley had been elected and hence Mills assisted by Frank Hurd, an Ohio democrat who also thought the seat should be given to McKinley, took charge of McKinley's case and though the House was democratic by about thirty majority, they came very near winning the place for McKinley. McKinley never forget Mills' interest in his case and the hard fight which he made to win it for him , and up to the hour of his death he was always more than willing to do anything that was in his power for any member of our family. When Col. Mills was canvassing the state of Ohio in the interest of lower tariffs and McKinley was a candidate for Governor of that state Col. Mills spoke of him in the highest terms everywhere. The State Democratic Committee did not like this and at one place told Col. Mills to please stop throwing "bouquets" at McKinley, to which he replied by telling them to please cancel the rest of his dates in Ohio. This they were unwilling to do whereupon he told them that he would make his own kind of speeches or none at all, that McKinley was his personal friend and a man of the purest character, and that he was fighting the principle which McKinley stood for and not fighting him personally.

When Col. Mills retired from the Senate McKinley sent for him and told him that he knew him to be a man of modest means and offered him

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

ROGER Q. MILLS
CHARLES H. MILLS
CORSICANA, TEXAS

an appointment as a member of the Board of Appraisers in New York City which paid $7,500.00 a year for life. Col. Mills told the President that he greatly appreciated his kind offer but could not accept it as he must go back to Texas to live. The President told him to think the matter over, and held the place open for him for eighteen months with the people of his own party clamoring for the place. This is only one of very many instances of McKinley's kindly acts with regard to his democratic opponent. When the Commission was to be appointed to negotiate the treaty of peace with Spain Senator Mills noticed frequent references in the papers to the intention which the President was said to have of appointing Senator Allison as Chairman of that Commission. One day Senator Mills went to the War Department and told Secretary Alger that the President would make a mistake if he made this appointment. Alger asked for his reasons. Senator Mills told him that he had nothing in the world against Allison, but that Allison was not a member of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and that if the President took anybody from the Senate for this Commission the Senate would resent his overlooking the Committee on Foreign Relations under which such matters would come, and to which the treaty would be sent when it came to the Senate. He said that it was not necessary for the President to go to the Senate at all as there were plenty of able men in the country suitable for that Commission who were not members of the Senate but that if the President went to the Senate he should go to the Committee on Foreign Relations. Secretary Alger asked Senator Mills to go to the President and say this to him. This was done at once, and Senator Mills told the President just what has been written, and said to the President that while he was a member of the Committee on Foreign Relations he would not accept a place on the Commission if tendered and hence he wanted the

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

ROGER Q. MILLS
CHARLES H. MILLS
CORSICANA, TEXAS

President to be assured of his absolute good faith in the matter. The President seemed to be struck with what he said and asked him whom he would recommend, to which Senator Mills replied that Cushman K. Davis was one of the ablest men in this country and Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations and would make excellent material for that Commission, he also spoke of Senator Frye of Maine, and he told the President that in his opinion the democrats should have representation on this Commission as this was a matter in which the whole country was interested and that it was not a party matter. In response to the President's request he then suggested the name of George Gray Senator from Delaware as the representative of the democratic side of the Senate on the Commission. Gray was also a member of the Committee on Foreign Relations. The president told him that Gray was already a member of the Canadian Boundary Commission to which Senator Mills replied that it would be advisable to put someone else on the Canadian Boundary Commission and put Gray on the Peace Commission. As an evidence of the fact that McKinley had some faith in the advice given by his democratic friend it may interest you to remember that Davis was made Chairman of the Peace Commission, that Frye was a member of of it, that Gray was taken from the Canadian Boundary Commission and placed on the Peace Commission, while another Senator took his place on the Canadian business. I simply cite these things to illustrate the feeling which existed between these two men of opposite political faith. One had been a Union soldier, the other had commanded a brigade at Chickamauga under Bragg, they differed on all political matters, and yet were very like what brothers ought to be in their personal relations. Where else could such a state of affairs exist outside of America ?

If you go to see Col. Mills ask him to tell you about his speech to the operatives of the carpet factories at Yonkers New York, and that to

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

ROGER Q. MILLS
CHARLES H. MILLS
CORSICANA, TEXAS.

the pottery workers at Trenton, New Jersey. Senator McPherson said that the canvass of New Jersey made by Col. Mills elected the legislature which sent him, McPherson, to the Senate.

Ask Col. Mills to tell you about the carteons from Puck and Judge which McKinley saved for two years to get even with him when the country had reversed itself and gone from a great Republican victory in 1890 to the re-election of Cleveland in 1892.

I wish you could have been in Washington while I was there in March last and could have seen Col. Mills at that time, because I could have helped in refreshing his memory concerning many interesting incidents connected with the time about which you are writing.

I would suggest that if you are going to Washington that you make it convenient to go as soon as it may be possible for you to do so, as my mother is very seriously ill there, and it is just possible that you might go at an inopportune time for that reason and find my father when he would be in distress about mother and not in the mood to talk about these matters or anything else of such nature.

If I can serve you further please command me. The copies of the letters which you desire are enclosed herein.

Yours very truly,

Chas. H. Mills

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
New York City, N. Y.

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