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RICH^d H. SMITH, CASHIER.

THE PLANTERS NATIONAL BANK

RICHMOND, VA., ^{Ap}l 9, 1901

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

New York.

Dear Madam:-

I received your letter a few days ago, and thank you very much for sending me the copy of April Mc Clures, although I have not yet received it, but we have been subscribers for quite a number of years, so that I read your very graphic account of the Disbanding of the Confederate Army with a great deal of interest. I became interested in your Lincoln articles some years ago, and while no people regretted his assassination more than the Southern people, and I have yet to hear a statement to the contrary, still there were many phases of his character and life not clearly understood by our people, which you have shown to us in their proper light. I trust you will not think me officious, but I believe that you are doing a good work, in giving to the South in an impartial and accurate history of events, the Northern side of these questions and in showing to the North the Southern side. The state of feeling in the South,

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and I hope it is the same in a greater part of the North, is a desire to learn in a calm, impartial manner of questions before hidden in a mist of passion and prejudice.

I am glad to know that you intend writing on the period immediately after the War, for I was at that time too young to take an active part in the politics of the period, but I can remember very vividly the violent hatred shown the white renegades who controlled the negroes, and also the constant friction occurring between the whites and negroes, which has now most happily passed away, at least in this part of the South. ~~To~~ ^{relate} show in a small way, how negroes act when given unrestrained license, I would like to ~~to~~ relate the experience of a Richmond girl, as told by her father, during the domination of North Carolina by the negroes within the past few years, culminating in a riot at Wilmington in 1897, (and they say it was much worse during Reconstruction times.) The Populists and Republicans fused and car-

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ried the state some five or six years ago, and appointed negroes to all the public offices they could control. The whole negro population immediately became very turbulent and insolent, especially in the towns, where they would jeer at and insult the country people who came to town to sell their produce, and subject them to many petty annoyances. They also began insulting ladies on the streets, especially at dark, putting their arms around them and making insulting remarks. One lady's two children were coming home from school in Wilmington, with their dolls, when a half grown negro boy snatched them from the children's hands, knocked the little girls down and broke their dolls' heads and when the children got up to run, hit one of them in the head with a rock. Mrs. Emerson, wife of the Traffic Manager of the Atlantic Coast Line at Wilmington, on coming home in the Fall, found a family of negroes in complete possession of her house, occupying her rooms, which were littered with trash and in a horrible condition, and had opened and plundered every trunk in the house. I would hesitate

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to make this statement but for the fact that it was told by the lady's father and can be verified by her husband, who by the way is a Western man coming from Illinois or Indiana, who would certainly not inherit any prejudices. When ordered to get out they were very impudent about it, and could hardly be forced out, as half of the police force were negroes, who openly sided with their own race. Years ago in Virginia there was trouble with the negroes for pushing white women off the sidewalks. Almost all Southern men are taught to respect women and to enforce respect in those who lack it, so you can readily see that a riot could very readily occur for causes like this.

Since writing the above, I have received the copy of the April number and gave it to one of our bookkeepers who served under Colonel Mosby and is one of the few survivors of his scouts. Allow me to suggest that a history of Mosby's rangers would make most interesting reading, as their deeds were the most daring of any of the Confederate troops. They

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were a semi-independent command and their career has not as yet been exploited. There is a history written by a Captain Chapman, I believe, at Richmond College dealing with this subject. I think it is entitled The Partisan Rangers of Mosby's Command. They captured a pay train containing several hundred thousands of dollars and captured a General Stoughton in the midst of his army, taking him out of bed in his hotel and riding off with him through his men's lines without being suspected. Dr. Chas. H. Ryland, Librarian of Richmond College, could no doubt tell you the name of this book.

very respectfully,

M B Watkins