

Stuart Fla Dec 26. 1906

My dear Ellen Tarbell:

I do not believe a man who has
turned the corner of sixty nine years,
is any less vain and self satisfied than
when he was a youth. At my age how
am I, in this sixty nine predicament,
delighted with the generous things you say
of me in the goodness of your heart, and
more than half way concluding myself
into the notion that I deserve them.

I want to be responsible and heads
headed in this affair; but in any
event I am entitled to rejoice in
your good opinion of me, and your
hearty wishes for my welfare and happiness.

I thank you from the bottom
of my heart for them; and I shall gratefully
remember them as long as I live. Somewhere
I have an idea that you know me well
and surely I need not afflict myself
with a fear of vanity if I have found
a friend in you. I have been stirred
to admiration by the unselfishness of your
the work you do, and your love of it.
and I shall not be envious of you
if you still work among the sheaves
when I am obliged to sit in the shade.

Sincerely your friend
Waver Cleveland

Miss Ida^{ell} Tarbell