

Columbia University
in the City of New York

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

3 May 1939

Dear Iderem:

I intended to read your Memoirs before I acknowledged them; for in the first place I knew I wanted to read them and in the second place I thought the process would be swift. But not so, for the work is most unusual. The further I have read the more I have wanted to re-read, and the more I have re-read. The progress has been slow and uneven as it has proceeded but it has been intensely interesting at every step. Only last night did I get to page 178, and the promise that he alone knew when page 407 will be completely and securely preserved, or rather reformed.

It is intensely interesting and beautifully done I have never read an autobiography so absorbing

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be one so vividly and accurately told. As I got
connected with the story when Paris appeared upon
the scene and as I have been connected with it,
I am happy to relate, ever since, in a delightful
personal fashion, I am greatly contented. Some day
later, if I have well finished my reading, as I
may have, I am going to send you my collective
impression. But now I am merely suggesting my
exultation. I want to tell you that much at this
point of the procedure and to say how proud I am
over the brilliant merits of this book

Forever yours

Downer

May 3, 1939 —