

would have published it if he dared. Mr. McClure was determined to publish it. There was a vein of the wary in him and as he was just off <sup>Mr. Phillips</sup> Europe <sup>we</sup> persuaded him to do a little investigating. Finally we received a postal card, "Don't publish the article on the opening of Napoleon's tomb. It was <sup>was</sup> opened."

That was all. By the time he came back he had forgotten the incident.

This sort of enthusiasm, this bringing up possibilities is one of the most exciting and after all I think <sup>valuable</sup> ~~prolific~~ characteristics of your great editor.

There is always a chance that the thing might be true. Why shouldn't Napoleon III have opened his ancestor's tomb. <sup>He</sup> believed that he did when he once got excited over the fact of having a good article telling all about it. It was only the fact that we had so patient and wise <sup>a head</sup> in John Phillips that saved the magazine from various adventurous plunges.

This opening of graves is not of course unknown in history. Even as I am writing I have come across a curious example - Woodcroft, the founder of the English <sup>Patent -</sup> Museum. ~~Woodcroft~~ was determined to obtain the original or exact models <sup>all</sup> of machines showing the evolution. <sup>of various orderly</sup> One model he wanted very much was an engine patented at <sup>in 1715</sup> Worcester of which the inventor called a semi-~~omnipotent~~ engine and said he intended the model should be buried with him. Not being able to secure a model Woodcroft decided to open the coffin. (Page 3 of Dickinson's address)

He succeeded in getting permission and on January 4, 1861 the coffin was opened but no model found.

(Quote)

"A full account with sketches of this gruesome search is preserved in the Science Museum and at the Patent Office Library. I will quote only one sentence from this unique document: "Out of respect to the remains of the mighty dead we did not open the cloth over the face, but were satisfied that there was no model buried in that part of the coffin." Woodcroft's intention had leaked out, and to his annoyance comments had appeared in the Press in the June and July previous, but the actual deed was done in secrecy, and to this day is only known to a comparatively few persons. (1)

Dickinson

- 1) /Presidential Address, 1933 - Museums and their relation to the History of Engineering and Technology. Copy to be found in New York Museum of Science and Industry, 220 E. 42nd St. New York City

Autobiography: McClures Magazine

Yesterday, April 3rd, ~~wrote~~ I called on Dunhams 200 West 86th Street to see an illustrated life of Lincoln - very good. Mrs. D. was interested in knowing how I got my inspiration for <sup>VP</sup> Life and I said quite truthfully I did not start out with an inspiration, I started out to do a job - quite a different thing.

<sup>had</sup> decided <sup>2 talked</sup> on ~~The way I, and I owe it to myself,~~ too garrulously as always, to become an authority on the French Revolution. I did not tell them that back of that lay my search to find out what ~~the~~ women would be worth in public life and I <sup>had</sup> settled on Madam Roland as a beginning at least of <sup>that -</sup> research. But this led me to a desire to know all about the French Revolution, to become as I say an authority. I came back to America with that notion and then that queer thing happened that I must tell about of knowing that I belonged here.

What happened when I stepped off <sup>the ship</sup> /and got that impression. I did not touch on this, however, to the D's.

They spoke of Napoleon and here is something that should come in. The satisfaction I had in studying the man who had brought France back to order, <sup>to secure it - you to</sup> the mental and spiritual distress that <sup>I felt in</sup> <sup>fine</sup> Madam Roland dead by the guillotine - all her/friends and fine ideas torn to tatters - headless, disorderly, hopeless country. The necessity of a strong hand. There was an intellectual and spiritual satisfaction to me in seeing them <sup>gathered</sup> up so that while they may call it a pot boiler, and it was I suppose a pot boiler, it was done with a degree of satisfaction, that only those who have had similar

*detailing need of good illustrations*