

*Imp. Albert*

May 31, 1938

Dear Dr. Tolley:

This letter is just between you and me. Mrs. Albert Hines called me up the other morning saying that a letter to Mr. Hines had just come in the mail from you but that he had not seen it, that she felt he ought to have a degree that would carry with it the title of Doctor, at least that is what I gathered from her talk. He already is an M.A. from Columbia. She thought that you possibly did not know that - this is an earned title. In three or four months I understand he is to have a Ph.D. from Columbia, also earned. Mrs. Hines feels that under these circumstances, which as I said she thought you probably did not know in making the Award, that it should be a more distinguished title.

I told her that I had nothing to do in the settling of the degree which should be given, that I had only been too glad to heartily recommend Mr. Hines, that I had written you that I felt the highest title possible for his achievement was none too good.

I do not know what Mr. Hines, himself, will write you for as I say he had not seen the letter, but if he is not properly grateful you may be sure that it is the woman in the case that is responsible. Mrs. Hines is very ambitious for Albert, and her call on me was entirely without his knowledge - that I am sure.

I am sorry to add this to your responsibilities and worries when you are so busy. Her point of course was that as he was already an M.A. from Columbia and that probably you did not know it that another degree would be more appropriate. It is a case of wifely ambition you see.

I am sorry I cannot be at Commencement.

Faithfully yours

Dr. William P. Tolley  
Meadville, Pa.

*Ida M. Tarbell*

2