

Home Lawn Hotel
Martinsville, Indiana
April 20, 1928.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

My sister, Josephine Culver, had the pleasure and privilege of meeting you last winter at the Pen and Brush Club, and you were kind enough to say to her that you would try to help her get things published if she appealed to you. Josephine has never attempted to write, but I have, and because you were so nice to her, and because it seems to be so difficult to achieve publication without some sort of backing from a prominent literary person, I am writing you. I would not bother you if I had not been told that the poetry I am enclosing is good. I have got encouraging letters from 'Poetry' and 'Contemporary Verse', but have not been able to get anything published.

Some time when you are not busy, would it be too much trouble for you to read the poetry, and if you don't think it's perfectly ghastly, give me permission to send it to certain magazines with your endorsement? This course seems hardly to be good etiquette, but on the other hand, it is crushing to get things back all the time, and I am sure that such an endorsement from you would carry much weight with haughty editors.

Of course I am familiar with some of your work, and admire it tremendously - especially 'In the Footsteps of the Lincolns', which must have entailed so much research and thought. But I think your book 'The Business of Being a Woman' is perfectly splendid, and no woman could possibly feel downtrodden and abused after reading it.

I am twenty one years old, and for the past year have been secretary to Henry Lane Wilson, formerly Ambassador to Mexico. Mr. Wilson has been very interested and encouraging about my trying to write. I am taking a short story course at Indiana University Extension, and studying very hard, and mean to 'arrive' someday, although it seems so awfully hard to get started.

If you find it convenient to bother about the poems, I will be very very grateful.

Miss Ida Tarbell
120 East 19th Street
New York City.

Sincerely,
Jane Culver

Spink Arms Hotel
Indianapolis.