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Letter: Ida M. Tarbell to Judge John H. Clarke, September 17, 1937

Tarbell, Ida M.

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September 17, 1937

Dear Judge Clarke,

I have not thanked you for your prompt and interesting answer to my letter about the Walker-McKinley affair. I have been away from my desk for some little time.

You say that you will be glad to read what I have written concerning the matter. I do appreciate that. I am enclosing simply the pages of my narrative which refers to the Walker failure. Perhaps I should include a word of explanation.

After I graduated from Allegheny College in 1880 I took the position of Preceptress of the Poland Union Seminary. I was hardly on the ground before I found I had let myself in for certain rather trying local situations - the retirement of Miss Blakely whom you must have known, a remarkably able teacher who had been the heart of the Seminary for many years. Everybody loved her and everybody resented that a new head of the Seminary had made conditions impossible for her. Naturally enough perhaps there were numbers of them who felt that I ought to share the blame or at least I ought to understand how they felt about Miss Blakely. Robert Walker at once sensed my predicament and he and his daughter Clara did their best to keep up my courage. Not as Miss Walker was universally called in Mahoning County became my most intimate friend. This is only to explain to you what has gone before the pages I am sending, and to give you a little clearer idea of how I came into this picture.

I am deeply grateful to you for being willing to look over my manuscript and I shall be doubly grateful for any comments that you have to make.

Very sincerely yours

Judge John H. Clarke
Hotel El Cortez
San Diego, Calif.