

1703 North 55th Street  
Philadelphia, August 20th 1910.

My dear Miss Tarbell,

Thank you for your kind note, which after a delay I received at the seashore. I wished to talk to you about an article I had in mind. I found, after awhile, that the idea was too big for me to handle alone, and I thought, if the article seemed valuable to you, that I might collaborate with someone whom you could perhaps suggest ---or rather, hand over to him the material, photographs etc. which I have.

The article was to be a discussion of the problems created by support of the churches by wealthy men who therefore control, almost exclusively, their policies; this broad problem to be illustrated by the recent events at the Ascension Church on Fifth Avenue, and by Dr. Irvine's experience in New Haven. Of course the severing of Dr. Irvine's connection with the church by the vestry at the Ascension, and its accompanying incidents, are familiar to you. The cause and result of a similar experience in New Haven were even more direct, beginning with Dr. Irvine's opposition to the city's granting, free, a valuable franchise to the New Haven Water Company. Most of the rich men who supported the church were stockholders in the Water Company, and several were officers. This action, with several incidents of a like nature, eventually caused Dr. Irvine to be "called of God" elsewhere.

Dr. Grant, of the Ascension, has promised, in case the article appeals to you, to give me his views on the subject.

The subject seemed to me broad enough, and important enough, to merit space in the American. But I can not, at present, take it up alone. Please, however, tell me if I am mistaken as to its value.

In May, through an interesting bit of office politics, I lost my position with "Musical America", and set out with enthusiasm to earn bread and butter ---no cake! --by writing. I have had a few things published, in the "Sun" and "Musical America"; but I appreciate as I could not at the time the wisdom of your remarks anent the securing of the absolute necessities by a fixed salary.

I am now at home in Philadelphia for a few weeks, but I hope surely to come to New York in September, and I hope to arrange for a few hours' stenographic work each week. Or, above all, I should like to act as secretary to someone leaving the country for a time. I reluctantly burden my letter with these details on the chance of the matter's coming up in your circle. I would make any sacrifice to leave the country for a time.

If you are at all interested in the church article, may I call and talk to you about it? I shall be in New York soon, in connection with some other work.

Thanking you for giving me some time out of your busy days, I  
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Very sincerely,

*Viola Irving*