

December 5, 1923

Mr. W. F. Bigelow,
Editor Good Housekeeping,
19 West 40 St.,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Bigelow:

I hope you will pardon this long delay in replying to your letter of November 10 with its stimulating enclosure - the letter from Mrs. Holcombe. I have been exceedingly busy and did not want to merely acknowledge Mrs. Holcombe's letter; I am sending her in your care an answer which, if you wish, you may look over. You see I am not signing it.

In your letter you ask what I have concluded about the article that you suggested some little time ago - "God's Place in a Busy Life." I have concluded that I do not want to undertake it, dear Mr. Bigelow. It is not that I should not like to try it, but I don't want to try it without giving it a good deal more thought than I have time for. It is not the kind of thing that I feel I can do as an assignment; but it is the kind of thing that you, having put into my mind, I am thinking about. Some day it may come to something; and if it does I shall feel of course that I should give you a chance at the result. But that will not be now.

I have had in mind, however, for some time an article which possibly you might like to consider. It is a discussion of the double standard. My observation is that there is a good deal of unthinking chatter going on about standards, and that the largest number of women who are doing the chattering are chiefly interested in an opportunity to practice the lower standard; and their reason for this is that they think - mistakenly, I believe - that man is chiefly interested in the lower standing. I do not believe this is so. I believe that it has been man, not woman, that, so far as standards are made consciously and intelligently, has worked for high standards. He has held women to them in order to build himself up on a little better level; and when she cuts under, as she is now doing, she really is pulling down something that man has been trying to force himself to build up.

I am afraid this is rather awkwardly expressed, but it is the notion that I have in mind and would like to work out. Would you care to see the result? - on the same terms as the former article, but of course, if you wish it, signed.

I find that I am a delinquent in another matter of which you wrote some time ago, and that is in regard to a list of books that have influenced me. I have not had time to do it, but I will try to get it to you soon, if it is not too late for your purpose.

Sincerely yours,