

1926-02-14

Letter: Charles D. Hazen to Ida M. Tarbell, February 14, 1926

Hazen, Charles D.

<http://hdl.handle.net/10456/20303>

This item is in the public domain.

All materials in the Allegheny College DSpace Repository are subject to college policies and Title 17 of the U.S. Code.

42, EAST 75 ST.

Feb. 14. 1926

Dear Ida M.

I have just finished
the life of Judge Gary and allow
me to say that your biographic
land has not lost its cunning.
Evidently it is a principle with
you to make your latest work
your best. And as you started
some years ago with a rush with
Maudie Phlipson this means that
you have attained now a

formidable crescendo. I am
impressed with your sheer power
more than with anything else, I
think, intellectual power and moral
power, power of understanding,
power of presentation. It used to
be said of Gladstone that he was
a seven-hour Chancellor of the
Exchequer, that in speeches, five hours
long, on the budget, he could make
"hippkins and cheese interesting, and
tea serious", and that while he
could sweep the widest horizon
of the financial future of Great
Britain he never lost from view

the significance of penny stamps
and post boxes in the national
economy. Well, you can do the
same with billets and ingots
and rolling mills and blast
furnaces, and very statesmanship
— for you absolutely and
abundantly prove that your
citter was and is a statesman.

The peewit pipings of my
colleague, Rexy Tughard, are
unimpressive, are ludicrous in
their thinness, his intimations that
he could tell the world a lot
about the Steel Trust an' he would,
that he knows more than you do

about it and that moreover he is
honest and fearless whereas you
Lane sold your soul and betrayed
your country - oh, well, all that
is simply the arrogance of adoles-
cence - if I am not doing him
injustice and exaggerating his age.

I have been thinking, as I have been
reading Gory, of what a lot of
fun you Lane had, must have
had, all your life living in the
presence and companionship of
Madame Roland and Clafabon
and Josephine, and Lincoln and
John D and his crew of pirates
and now this clear thinking and

42, EAST 75 ST.

imaginative and constructive and
essentially courageous Albert.
You're had to work like a
galley slave, you're had to break
up a lot of granite before you
could build up these monuments
of biography, for I don't believe that
anything you have ever done has
been very easy - but you're done
it - you're written a fine foot
shelf and not merely compiled
one - and I'll wager you have
had to wrestle long and hard

with the Powers of Darkness before
you gained that crystalline clearness
of style which is very remarkable
and which has characterized everything
you have written, and which is a
never ending delight to your readers,
and which, I know to my sorrow, is
lamentably rare in the literature
of Economics which, all too often,
is apt to have all the attractions
of a Serbonian bog.

You have made, as you have
gone along, several good large
clearings in which your fellow humans
can take much pleasure and

satisfaction and whence they can
draw much inspiration.

But you will regret having done all
this if I go on much longer. So I'll
stop merely saying that I want to
talk over a lot of interesting
topics suggested by the Gary and
that I see no way of doing that
unless we get together, — which we
ought to do very soon. Meanwhile
let me say that your latest book
is as exciting as the theme of which
it treats.

Affectionately yours,

Dwaine Hazel.