

1899-12-31

# Letter: Charles D. Hazen to Ida M. Tarbell, c. 1899

Hazen, Charles Downer

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[1899?]

My dear Miss Yaskell.

So far from being amused  
at knowing you are in a sanitarium  
I am on the contrary alarmed and  
indignant. I have grown so accustomed to  
think of you as successfully defying  
all the laws of God and man that I am  
shocked to find you are not as much  
superior as I had thought. Really a  
Miss Yaskell sitting up only two hours  
a day isn't the one I have known and  
I wish her henceforth to sit bolt erect  
for at least twenty a day as I think.

I am reproaching myself a little too  
far if I had known you were ill  
I certainly should have written you  
before. I got your invitation to New  
York long ago and hoped to accept  
it from week to week and didn't  
and not only didn't but didn't  
respond and continued to act in my  
customary shameless way. All this  
you know and there is no comfort  
in it for either of us.

I only wish you lived up here in  
the country away from that black hole  
of New York where good and bad  
are alike consumed in the maddest



My days go smoothly by and quietly, not perhaps, like  
Mordaworth's bound each to each by natural piety - but were the-  
less bound together in some old way. Teaching school is much  
the same one year as another. Whereas editing a great American  
family and home magazine is I suppose subject to variety. Still  
each year has its innovations, too, for me. Recently for instance  
I've been appointed the Smith representative on the Commission  
of New England colleges, a body of considerable solemnity  
in our local educational world. I shall now have some  
chance to view the great men from other institutions,

stealthily getting joints all the time  
for my own uses. If I ever tell you  
that the local paper in Malore, N. Y.,  
last year just before my lecture  
here tried to awe the populace into  
the town hall by declaring that I  
was "an eminent educator". These  
are the terms in which one speaks of  
George Mann and President Eliot  
and Pestalozzi. You see what  
advances I am making to be ranked  
among them. My career is gradually  
unfolding, willy-nilly. Know me,  
then henceforth as an eminent educator

of the English speech. I want your opinion. I rather admire the  
delicacy of a man who frames his little experiences and  
aspirations before a sick woman who can sit up two hours  
a day, and demands her undivided attention. You might  
as well have the Weclure syndicate for solace and balm.

To repeat I want to see you but I can't possibly go  
to Clifton this week. I would in a minute and very gladly  
if I possibly could. But I must stay here two weeks longer,  
then to my people at home for a few days. Then I shall  
go to Boston for the Historical meeting and if you can  
only be here will have a good time. If you can't I  
shall certainly go to New York to see you directly  
afterward, if you are there, or to Clifton Springs, if you  
are there. Have the Springs any such rocks and wooden  
wares ~~and~~ <sup>as</sup> the Clifton Heights of olden time?

This isn't much of a letter but I hope you would rather  
have it than nothing. I can't tell you how sorry I am to have to  
send it to an invalid. Write me when you get better, even if  
you can send only a line. I am going straightway to drink a  
bottle and a half of beer out of a Swedish pewter mug to your  
health. Is Drab's tale in the book? Very sincerely Charles F. Warren.

I am also chairman of a committee on  
Historical Materials that is to report in  
April to an Awestmuck New England History  
Teacher's Association a thing or two.  
Purity to those that Lane shall be given.

I am also reading French history  
as I did, indeed, most of the summer.  
I want very much to see you & talk  
over things with you. You know I  
mentioned writing a history of France  
in the nineteenth century. I still have  
it in mind but I am also thinking of  
a biography of Henri Gregoire, a distinguis-  
-ed republican of the French Revolution.  
His career was varied and striking  
and is not very well known to us