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Letter: Clement E. Merowit to Ida M. Tarbell, February 19, 1936

Merowit, Clement E.

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February 10, 1936

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
120 East 10 Street
New York City

My dear Miss Tarbell,

It is some time since you were kind enough to offer to sponsor our movement. Failure is unpleasant to admit, regardless of the reasons, and so I have postponed writing as I do, until absolutely convinced of the need.

The Residents Voluntary Movement for Noise Abatement was born a very frail child. Its chances for survival rested upon a confidence in the sense of fairness and cooperation of our citizens, and it looked for its practical means of support to parents who had both a moral and practical responsibility for its future.

This confidence, I'm sorry to admit was misplaced. It was denied help by those it sought to benefit. Some thought wrongly that its function was being performed by others; most others preferred to continue their expressions of indignation over a general condition to be deplored, rather than to lend their energies constructively to an effort that sought the solution to one portion of the problem, which it was apparent, would likely be overlooked or intentionally avoided.

In any event, you reaffirmed your social and sympathetic inclinations by lending your support to our effort and I want to thank you again. We are suspending our activities until such time as human nature generally offers a fertile field for such a work as we envisaged.

Sincerely

CLEMENT E. MEROWIT

Consideration toward your neighbor is consideration for yourself.