

WILLIAM FORTUNE
INDIANAPOLIS

January 8, 1923.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East Nineteenth St.,
New York City.

Dear Miss Tarbell:-

I have been alternately bewildered and desperate in my efforts to clear away the mountain before me preparatory to my contemplated prolonged absence. I have been very busy and have accomplished much, but there still remains much to be done. I have been kept in bed by an acute attack of illness since the latter part of last week. My program has not made allowance for this loss of time.

My telegram to you on Saturday, inquiring the date of our engagement with you, was occasioned by the desire of Mr. Lilly to accept an invitation for another dinner to us in New York. Your prompt answer enabled me to avoid conflict of dates, and today I have your letter of the 5th giving full information about your arrangements.

Your assurance that you will undertake no arrangements that will be troublesome to you pleases me very much, and your suggestion as to informality of dress is also very thoughtful. Mr. Lilly had already asked me if dinner coats would be too informal for the occasion, and your anticipation of the question prepares me to communicate to him what you had said on this point.

I am very much delighted to know that the Rices will be there. In a note about two weeks ago Mrs. Rice indicated that they might be delayed in getting to New York. Your information is later and pleases me very much.

It now seems improbable that Evelyn will be able to accompany us. She is very much disappointed. She has been hoping that she could participate in the reunion, and I would like to have her with us, but circumstances are not favorable at this time. She hopes to go during the winter for a brief stay in Italy.

I. M. T. -2-

My son, Russell, will probably accompany us from here to New York, and it was decided yesterday that we had better leave here not later than the 20th to be sure of having two full days in New York before the departure of our steamer. We have much to ~~do~~^{do} there and our steamer leaves too early for us to safely accomplish much on Wednesday.

I am finding that there is a good deal of ceremony that I had not taken into account with a going away of this kind. A number of farewell dinners are being given here, and in this respect our trip has already begun. Nothing could please me more than to have as the last of these events before departure the reunion of our little party as proposed by you. I am looking forward to it most joyfully.

With great appreciation,

Cordially yours,

William Fortner

WF:C