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Letter: Gertrude T. Rider to Ida M. Tarbell, November 21, 1919

Rider, Gertrude T.

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My dear Miss Tarbell:

We desire to enlist your cooperation in the Braille production of some of your writings for the war-blind.

Few suitable books are available for the use of these blinded boys, and the American Library Association is soliciting funds for brailling short stories, novels, poems, vocational texts, books of general information, magazines articles, etc., for their entertainment and education.

The first step in Braille printing is embossing the text on metal plates. This costs about $6.35 per thousand words and is the most expensive part of the work. Paper impressions may afterwards be struck off for a very reasonable sum.

We ask for the cooperation of authors, publishers and others in meeting the initial cost. When this has been defrayed, the American Library Association undertakes to print, bind, and send for the use of the blind men as many copies as are needed. Not only the war-blind, but the civil blind will benefit by such a gift, for schools and libraries for the blind, and individuals, will be able to purchase copies at cost. Printing of books for the blind is done without any profit whatsoever.

Will you aid us in our effort to furnish these men with some entertaining literature, by financing the cost of embossing one of your short stories, or one of your many interesting magazine articles on current topics? We will be glad of suggestions from you as to which of your writings you consider most suitable for these blinded boys.

We believe this work will meet with your
Miss Ida M. Tarbell.

sympathy, and sincerely hope you will find it possible to help us financially.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

In Charge of Work for the Blind.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
132 E. 19th. Street,
New York City, N.Y.

N.B. You will be glad to know that favorable replies have been received from a number of representative authors to whom we have lately written.