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Autobiography: All in A Day's Work

All in the Day's Work: Working manuscripts, notes, research, some correspo

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1939-01-01

# Manuscript page: Page numbered 256

Tarbell, Ida M.

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which she read many, particularly in the biographical field; she wanted none but the best, no imitation, no mere fact-finding. Her eagerness to let no good thing slip, her consciousness of the all too little time a human being has in this world to explore its riches made her rigid in her choice. An unsleeping eagerness to find talent and give it a chance, and secondarily, she said, to enrich the magazine, made every day's work with the unsifted manuscripts an adventure. And if she found exceptional merit that was also suited to McClure's she might weep with excitement. It was when McClure's was making a great hunt for a good serial that I saw her one morning bringing into the editorial sanctum Booth Tarkington's, "The Gentleman from Indiana"; tears celebrating the discovery as she cried, "Here is a serial sent by God Almighty for McClure's Magazine!" And she stood to it till faith grew in those less sure of the untried.

This woman of unusual intelligence, loyalty and of truly Spartan courage was a precious addition to the crowd. Ill health, threatened blindness has never lowered her enthusiasm, her ceaseless effort to find the best, to give the best. She is still doing it.

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*The most brilliant addition to the McClure's staff in my time was Lincoln Steffens*