

Typed by M. Cloud

Ada P. McCormick  
Tucson, Arizona  
October 16, 1946

(Letter from Ida M. Tarbell  
to her family, 1894)

17 Rue Malebanche

163T My Dear Family:

Do you believe I am coming home? I have said I did for the last four months but I didn't. In my heart of hearts I thought something would keep me from getting the money though I knew I had worked hard enough for it. But here it is -- in my bosom. I just received it from McClure's and I am so dazzled at the thought of really starting for America that I do not know what to do. When I opened McClure's letter and found that blessed money, I began to cry as hard as Esther used to and then to laugh like a genuine Charcot patient. But perhaps I better try to write my plans instead of describing my emotions. I think now -- I have had about 30 minutes to think -- that I shall leave here on May 29 or 30 for Antwerp. I sail from there on June 2, that will get me into New York on June 12 or 13. I shall write you, of course, the steamer and the date, and wire you on arriving at New York. I shall be obliged to stay in N.Y. a few days, I presume, though it will be as few as possible, and I will write you from there as soon as I know. I do not know about stopping two or three days with the Emery's and Vincents. I don't believe I can. It would be charming, of course, but I must see you folks and I should be no visitor at all. I think I shall write them that they better go to N.Y. for their reunion, and then I shall have ~~two~~ nothing to do but go home as soon as the New York work is done. You may be sure I'll put that through rapidly. I have told Jo and the Meadville girls I was going home in June or

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Digitized Images, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Peltier Library.

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July or sometime this summer, but I shall write the date to no one but you for I don't want to be bothered and I shall say nothing about going to N.Y. next fall though if McC. doesn't "bust up" before I undoubtedly shall. It is probably the best thing I can do and if they keep their promises to me and they will do that if they can, I am sure, I shall work into a good place as editor and staff writer and be able to carry out some pet plans, too, I think. But I shall stay home until October, if you will keep me, so as to finish up my book and have that for a starter next winter. It is pretty well done, now.

If I go to N.Y. I shall try to take an apartment -- a little one and furnish it so that you people can come and visit me -- all the time.

I have, of course, an enormous amount to do between now and my departure. Every thing piled up. I shall finish though for joy gives wings. I go every Saturday night to Mme. Marilleis for dinner until my departure and twice a week to Mère Marilleis -- and then the errands! They are dreadful, but funny too. Yesterday I had one all afternoon in one of the most beautiful private parks here -- at Neuilly. I carried away as a souvenir a picture of the castle of Chillon which will make you wild. Beautiful thing -- gave it to me. But I am too excited to write. I shall expect letters from you here before I go. Write me at N.Y. so I shall get it when I arrive, care of S.S. McClure, No. 30 Lafayette Place (they have moved). Write about 8th of June.

Love to all,

Ida M. Tarbell.

I send you a pansy from the garden where I was yesterday. It is only medium size.

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