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Letter: Ida M. Tarbell to W.A. Harper, September 6, 1932

Tarbell, Ida M.

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September 6, 1932

My dear Professor Harper:

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I hope you will pardon me for having delayed so long in answering your letter of July 27th. I have been out of town as my secretary wrote you. Also since my return so over-crowded with work that it has been hard for me to take care of my correspondence.

I appreciated your comment on my life of Owen D. Young. It is by no means the last word about Mr. Young, but it will be my last word I hope. He seems to be a growing man.

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Now as to the questions which you ask me, or I should say the advise that you ask, if being understood, of course as you say, that my name shall not be used in connection with the matter.

First - Yes, I have no doubt that Mr. Young would sympathize with your endowment campaign for Vanderbilt University, but I doubt very much whether he would consider giving to it.

Second - My answer to your first question disposes of the second - the proper channel of approaching him. Even if I felt that he should be approached my relation is such to him and to his office that I would think it highly improper for me to suggest a method of reaching him.

I have always made it a practice whenever I was studying a living man and receiving material from him and his friends never to trade either for myself or anybody else, however good the cause was, on the relationship.

I am sure, dear Dr. Harper, you will understand this position. I do sympathize with the work you are trying to do at Vanderbilt University. I feel quite sure that Mr. Young, himself, would sympathize with it and if the times were not what they are and his commitments so insistent

and heavy you might hope to have his aid. At least I see
no objection to your finding your way to him.

I am sorry that I cannot help you.

Very sincerely yours

Professor W. A. Harper
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, Tennessee