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CAMBRIDGE, MASS., December 4

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Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
381 Fourth Avenue,
New York.

Dear Madam:-

I have just read with deep interest your article in the Christmas American Magazine. You have put in thrilling words the idea which has haunted me for years--- that the only time the unfortunate woman without good birth, or breeding, or training has a "fair show" is when she first comes under woman's rule in a woman's prison or reformatory.

You demonstrate that what these women need is training in self-control, and training in some trade whereby they may gain respectable self-support. These two things, plus the self-respect which comes from having a recognized economic and political status, will place all women where they can get a "fair show" outside of prison.

Though you do not say so in your article, I am sure you agree that the same sort of wise government which is doing so much for the women at Bedford is too valuable to be wasted and should be utilized in the world at large. The man-made-world is a dangerous one for women, as you have demonstrated.

There seems to be only one logical conclusion, and that is that men and women must have equal opportunity for self-protection and self-government, and these two can be developed normally only when there is for both equal and recognized responsibility. This means that women must have the vote, since that is the symbol of recognized responsibility, and the most effective tool of self-government.

I await with eagerness your next article. You will doubtless work out in your lucid style this full-grown, self-governing attitude toward themselves which women must have in order to be self-respecting either in or out of prison.

Very truly yours,

Grace A. Johnson

(Mrs. L. J. Johnson)
90 Raymond St., Cambridge