University Park, Colo.,
Sept. 1910.

Miss Ida Tarbell,
New York City.

Dear Madam:--

I have read to my wife your interesting articles upon Women. I note that you gave much precedence to Oberlin and Antioch College as to equality of opportunity for women educationally. You name Syracuse as open to them in 1871. Now if you will examine in some good library the Alumni Record of Syracuse University, you will perceive in its opening pages that it grew out of Genesee College, which opened in 1851 at Lima, New York, with absolutely equal treatment of women, and in 1853 Mary E. Nash, (whom I as a lad knew) received the A.B. degree with a man as a fellow graduate.

That they shared the delivery of literary work with the men at Chapel, is seen from the fact that after two years: "Oct. 18, 1853. The ladies of the college, at their own request, were excused from reading essays at college prayers."

If Syracuse is worthy of mention for its part in 1871, it is because it inherited its ideals as well as a host of Alumnae from Genesee College which it absorbed and succeeded.

As I went to the former institution in 1862, I know it was its boast that it was in the van in this matter.

Yours respectfully,

Wilbur F. Steele.

Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.