

Cleveland, O., June 23, 1916.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
New York City.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Your letter from Akron received. I will confess to you that I am somewhat surprised at its contents and yet perhaps I should not be. Had you been at the Trustee meeting at Pittsburgh last January, you would have known that there were no threats made against Mr. Lockwood.

You acknowledge that you know nothing about the merits of the case and then immediately go on "since the issue has been raised etc." you propose a plan of settlement. Now there is no issue whatever. The prime mover of all these rumors is said to be Professor Ercel, who was connected with the College a few years ago, but left on his own accord, and Brother Lockwood seems to try to raise a rumpus out of nothing. I am pretty sure that you in running your business don't pay attention to every whiffet that may bark; nor to those disgruntled parties who have been in your employ, do you give much attention to when they get outside; and that is the amazing thing to me that you should give heed to these until you had definite knowledge, but in your opening sentence you say that you know nothing about the controversy.

Now the parties complaining were given an opportunity before the following committee: Hon. J. J. Henderson, J. W. Kinsar, Arthur L. Bates, Will N. Ridge, Edward B. Heckle. I enclose you a copy of the report of that committee. The party headed by Phillips, who has been the loudest in making complaints, when given an opportunity to state any charges, refused. It was merely rumor, but would not mention the name of the parties who gave the rumors, and yet after this fellow had been given an opportunity to state the case, comes out and begins barking again. When the parties who are howling most refuse to state their case when they have an opportunity, they ought to shut up and keep their mouths shut for all time.

The Trustees have made no threat. They have nothing to apologize for. They are handling the business as best they know how, and it is your duty to be on hand and take your part as a trustee and not send in your suggestions for others to work out. We who have been closely identified with all of Dr. Crawford's movements for over twenty years, know that he has the best interests of the college at heart, and his labor and the results thereof are well known to you.

When you get at the animus of this whole thing you will find that it is a little coterie of individuals related to each other by marriage etc. and has no foundation whatever back of it, so there will be no committee, as you suggested, appointed. When we have charges that are made out in the open

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then and not till then will we invite outsiders to settle any difficulties that is presumed to arise.

You get into the game and come to our trustee meetings and you will be better able to decide on matters pertaining to the college, as you will see by the report brought in by the committee named above, and I am sure for intelligence, integrity and ability to reach a decision it would be hard to find a better committee than was appointed.

Trusting that you will not get scared at a shadow but will delve in and get to the facts of the things hereafter, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Frank A. Arter