

25 March, 1828

write you  
more away

Dear Mrs Tarbell,

I have been intending  
all these weeks since I heard of the  
Knex appointment to write my congratulations  
to the College via you. Such appointments  
encourage us to be hopeful of American  
Colleges. They have "real people" as  
faculty is so much more than  
to have pedagogues.

As so often happens, a good  
intention, in this case, has hung  
fire until a selfish interest pushes  
it into action. To let the cat at  
once out of the bag — could  
you find time to read, at least  
part, of my life of N. W. Olverich,  
especially the tariff chapters. 2

Let me explain. In many ways I  
fancy you regard me as all wrong  
- as heaven knows I may be! - and  
therefore, I want particularly to see  
what will happen to my MS when  
it runs the gauntlet of your criticism.  
Of course, I can't promise in advance  
to accept all your criticisms - my  
darkness & original sin may be  
too dense for the true starlight  
to penetrate it! - but I shall be de-  
lighted to record in my notes all  
the places where I am unable to  
follow you and to state your views  
of the disputed points. Don't you  
think such annotation would do the  
reader much good? At least, it  
would show that I mean to be  
fair even if I am obtuse. If you  
can see your way to doing this I  
shall feel greatly in your debt.  
Sincerely yours,  
Samuel W. Johnson