Return enclosed

Piqua,Ohio,April 26,1938
Colonial Saxony,
% Mrs A.Acton Hall

Miss Ida M.Tarbell,
120 E.19th Street,
New York.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

The celebration of the 120th anniversary of the Piqua Female Bible Society has called to my mind that when you gave a lecture here some time ago,you made a remark that I have always remembered which was in a personal conversation with me.You said," The Piqua Female Bible Society is one of the most interesting things in your town."So in the recent observation of the 120th birthday of this society I thought of you and have the urge to write you.Another thing you said that always impressed me was that'a person could best serve their own community'.It seems I ,as a librarian,have always been forced to take positions in other states or communities other than my own.I have just recently finished some work for the WPA in south eastern Ohio,where I was the only trained librarian in a County Library Project for eight counties where it was my work to supervise some one hundred and fifty librarians and seven county library supervisors.It was most interesting work as we tried to make librarians of men and women giving them a sure monthly wage when they had been on relief.They as librarians gave their homes for library purposes,and circulatedthe books we thought would be read in their particular communities.The association,with the best books as the State Library and the larger towns supplied them ,gave them a self respect which reliefsaps from them.They were happier and their living conditions improved in every instance,and best of all their own children and the neighbors children were allowed to tumble about in a real worthwhile library.In the eight counties in about two years we had a circulation of nearly a million books a year.But wheneverything was running smoothly and progressing,the State Library Organizer became very much opposed to paying these librarians,as she believed in volunteersin county library work, and that the libraries in these counties should qualify as Public County Libraries,and carry on the work instead of the WPA. She had a chance to cerry out her policies when Federal funds wer were reduced,and nine other counties were combined with our original eight,and our executives were supererseded by others representing the nine counties.So I was out ,and have found nothing to do since,except try to do some story scenes and story pictures from the history revolving around the Northwest

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Territory Celebration,for boys and girls.Mr Emerson Hansel, Publicity Director for the Celebration Commission,asked me to do this,but as an unknown writer,it is not easy to market what one writes,as that is what the Publicity Director asks, as there has nothing been allowed to finance such publicity.

You ,of course,would not remember me,but as Ernest Ashton Smith's sister,I met you at a dinner the Crawfords gave during a Meadeville College Commencement a number of years ago.It was later when you came to Piqua,but as you were especially kind to me in Meadeville,I did try to make your visit in my town as pleasant as possible.

After my brother's and mother's passing it left merather alone,as my one other brother,Cloyd,is somewhat of an invalid, and his family are kept busy caring for him.At present I need expert advice,such as I feel you are honest and experienced enough to give me.Ever since the rather disagreeable experience in my last library position,I have been not quite myself physically.Fortunately a friend of mine has given me the use of her apartment here in Piqua while she has been in California,so I have tried to relax and take advantage of any opportunities that presented themselves,but as yet nothing has resulted,and I simply have to do something as I have nothing only what I can earn.You see although I have had library training,and every experience in library work,I am now past Civil Service age.Writing appeals to me,and I have done feature articles for pay for Ohio newspapers,but to make a li living at writing is another matter.You have always written so successfully,any advice you might give another woman,just because of her great need,would be such a kind deed that it would not be possible to estimate it.

Thanking you for all you have meant to me during these years,and hoping you will berable to continue to add new achievements to those you havealready won,and with every good wish,I am,

Sincerely yours,
Daisy Mary Smith

Once I lived at 105 E 19th Street,New York.It was when I was acting as Children's Librarian for a short time in The Tompkins Square Branch of the New York Public Library. Thinking you might be interested in the milestone of the Piqua Female Bible Society,I am sending you an account of it. If you would like to feature it,I can get a picture of Mrs Rachel Johnston.Her great granddaughter,Mrs Rachel Shuldam lives here,and is a friend of mine.

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