28 May 1904

THE PORTSMOUTH,
40 WEST NINTH STREET.

My dear Miss Wilkinson,
I hope you will not consider this note an intrusion. I am only writing it because I fear that you are unhappy and that an element in that unhappiness is your feeling that Mr Phillips and I are judging you harshly. I want to ask you to put

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that idea entirely out
of your mind. Neither
Mr Phillips nor I have
the right or the inclination to judge the
hearts of other men
and women. Both of
us have departed from
the first - the intimacy
between you and Mr
McClure because we
believed that - in the
nature of things
nothing but pain and
moral disintegration
could come from it -
but we have not judged

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your own firm determination to
cut off the relation entirely when
you thoroughly realized that this was true
has excited my admiration and
respect. I realize how hard your
position is and I want you to feel
that I, far from being your judge in
all this affair have meant only to
be your friend and that you have
now my deepest sympathy

Faithfully Yours
Ida M. Tarbell

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