

December 27

South Manchester
Connecticut

My dear Miss Tarbell

Forgive the delay
in answering your letter. It reached
when I was too busy to attend to
it because of a combination of
Christmas, my Mother's illness
and an invasion of my sister's
family.

I find that we can
quite easily find out what

the proportion of married women in our works
is and the figures will be ready to
send you probably tomorrow. I am
sorry I cannot get an answer to
your second question. I take it you
mean by "the ^{length of the} average working life of
our women" the average length of time they
are employed by us. But even that
we are unable to say without a rather
careful examination of about 2000 cards,
which are not absolutely accurate. In
many cases the work in the mill is inter-
rupted by a change of occupation or stay-
ing home to do housework, or going away
for a season, to say nothing of such in-
cidents as marriage and having children.
I suppose you mean to show that
factory life is the incident for women
and home life the main occupation.?

It surely should be so but I
do not know if it is so here.

You did us so much good
Miss Parbell. Please come again
and stir us up and meet the
rest of my relations who would
have been most glad to see you.

Very sincerely yours

Mary Cheney