Snakes:

I shall have to have a little fun in explaining why I do this thing, other than the fact that it interests me. You are not supposed to do anything by a large number of people now-a-days unless it has social implications. What are the social implications of this experience of mine with snakes? The really important thing, socially, is that an eighty year old ~~expression~~ can ~~be counted~~ overcome a life long obsession. That is, that old age may not be as hopeless as it seems.

Digital Image, 2015. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College, Pelletier Library