

Yonkers, N. Y.
Sept. 2, 1922.

Dear Mr. Thompson:

I had the conference with Miss Tarbell yesterday afternoon, but could not get to the office in time to get a letter off. The building is closed today and Monday, so I am writing the report at my home.

Miss Tarbell was very kind and in every way disposed to assist the Committee.

I first reviewed for her the history of the two manuscripts and, to give her background, had her read the Houghton Mifflin letter of May 10, the Sturgis letter of July 12, Copley's report of the Macrae interview of Aug. 17, and our recent letters regarding further procedure.

I then put to Miss Tarbell, one after the other, the various phases of the problem. The following is my best recollection of her replies, based on notes made immediately afterward.

1. Should the effort be continued to have the manuscript published as is, with minor corrections, - as two volumes - or should it be rewritten to make one volume before submission to new publishers? Miss Tarbell has believed from the first it should be one volume and is still of that judgment; but all the circumstances must now be considered - a second completed manuscript making two volumes, the difficulty of securing a one-volume manuscript, the probable heavy investment, etc. - and Miss T. believes further effort should be made to utilize the present manuscript by submission to other publishers - subject of course to minor necessary corrections and condensations.

2. What use should be made at present of the Mrs. Taylor-Mrs. Dresser condensation of certain parts of the manuscript? Miss Tarbell thinks it excellent that that revision has been made and should be continued, but she advises strongly that it be not injected into the procedure at present; that it should be held back from Mr. Copley and the publishers until it has been proved that publishers cannot be found, or until publishers are found and it can be utilized in connection with the final revision in consultation with the publishers. If publishers of a two-volume book are found, the revision may not have to be so drastic; if a one-volume book becomes necessary, this revision will be of great importance.

3. Should the manuscript be submitted to other publishers essentially as is (with explanation that minor, final revision is necessary) or should such submission await the completion of a revised manuscript? Miss Tarbell recommends submission as is, with understanding that critical revision of certain details is in process. The revision can go on while publishers are reading the present manuscript.

4. To how many additional publishers should the present manuscript be submitted? Miss Tarbell suggests it be submitted to as many as is necessary to secure a publisher or convince Mr. Copley that a publisher cannot be found for a two-volume manuscript. She suggests Harpers next. If that firm declines the manuscript, that would be sufficient to satisfy Miss T. that a publisher cannot be found for a

two-volume manuscript. But it might not be conclusive to Mr. Copley, in which case submit it to other publishers until he is satisfied a two-volume book cannot find a publisher.

5. How should Mr. Copley be handled if a publisher cannot be found for a two-volume manuscript? Miss T. advises that we wait until such an outcome is demonstrated - by that time Mr. C. may be a much easier problem. It is not unlikely that by that time he may agree to anything the Committee suggests.

6. Should the book be published by publishers of general literature, or would technical publishers be suitable? Miss T. advises continuation of effort to secure publishers of general literature, not alone because it is preferable, but also and perhaps principally because Mr. Copley has his heart set on such a publisher. Continue until one is secured or until Mr. C. is convinced one cannot be secured. Then turn to publishers of technical literature. If one of them accepts, it will get the book into print and in a certain number of libraries, although probably only a limited number would be sold, (which is likely to be the case of a two-volume book, no matter who the publishers may be). If this manuscript with its wealth of details is published and available for reference, it seems inevitable that a one-volume life will follow; a one-volume life put out by a publisher of general literature might have quite a circulation.

7. Would it be proper to submit the present manuscript to a technical publisher at the same time it is being considered by a publisher of general literature? Miss T. says in that case it would be desirable to make explanations to both publishers reading it simultaneously, in which case both might be prejudiced, and the outcome in both instances might be unfavorable. On the whole better not to approach technical publishers until we are finished with general publishers.

But it would not be improper, and it might be desirable, to submit the manuscript to a man like Mr. Alford, not as a representative of any publishing house, but personally in a consultative capacity, to get his judgment whether it is too long, etc., and whether a technical publisher would be likely to be interested in it.

The above are the specific questions I put to Miss Tarbell. In general Miss Tarbell's attitude seemed to be this: the situation is unfortunate and complicated by the independent and stubborn manner in which Mr. Copley has gone ahead and disregarded craftsmanship. But the situation is what it is, and further procedure must be based on what is. Arbitrary handling of the matter would probably cause further disagreeable complications, wear everybody to a frazzle, and cause loss of time rather than expedite things. Therefore, go ahead in the effort to secure a publisher of the general literature type, for the present manuscript without drastic revision, until such a publisher is found, or until Mr. Copley is satisfied that such a publisher cannot be found. He will then probably throw up his hands and agree to do anything, or to anything, Mrs. Taylor and the Committee desire.

I have written this out in long hand because a stenographer has not been available. My daughter has simultaneously made a copy for Mrs. Taylor. I have not kept a copy for myself. Therefore I request the following:

1. That Mrs. Taylor send her copy over to Mr. Clark for his advance information;
2. That Mr. Thompson have copies of the letter typed at his office, and that typed copies be sent to Mrs. Taylor, all the Committee, and myself.

Sincerely,

(Signed) H. S. Person.

Sanford E. Thompson
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H. S. Person/G

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