37 Elliott Road
Great Neck, N.Y.
August 4, 1939

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

"All in a Day's Work" has prompted me to write to you. A good auto-biography makes one feel that the author, however revered, is a friend. I, too, wanted to go to Paris, but I married and have two girls "5 and 10." That is why I hope you will find an answer to the Woman Question. Boys can expect a home and a career - but girls must choose. Why? Can't we work for equal rights? We used to think that women were not capable of being educated, of taking their place with men. Women like you have disproved that, and the education of my little girls will be in some measure determined by what you have accomplished.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

You speak so often of Freedom. After reading "Progress and Poverty" I decided that we can never have freedom without equal access to the land. You mention being "heckled" by "Socialists and Single Taxers" and so I am sure you must be familiar with the philosophy of Henry George. How did you escape being a Georgist? Next to Christianity itself (which even the Churches do not follow) Georgism seems to offer the most reasonable solution to the economic problems that lead to war. If we can't make all men Christlike, we can at least collect the economic rent on the land they use — and that would solve the problem of monopoly — n'est-ce pas?

Yours for the "spiral" of progress,

Mildred Bowers Armstrong

(author "Twist o' Smoke", Yale University Press)

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