

June 18, 1940

My dear Miss Tarbell:

All this long silence does not mean that I have not been thinking of you nor that many many people at Commencement did not ask for you, but that the "digging out" after weeks of preparation for the 125th Anniversary and all the accumulated work is so overwhelming that I have not even had time to send you a note. We did miss you so much. Mr. Bray came in and added his regrets to ours. We were sure your thoughts were with us and ours certainly were with you. I have a package of three Tribunes all wrapped ready to mail you but do not know where to send them since some one said you were in a Hospital and had given up your apartment. I am ashamed to say that I do not remember what the farm address is except that it is near Bridgeport. Consequently if some one will send me word at once about where to send the papers you will get them, belated tho they are, full of news about the nicest Commencement I remember in all I have experienced.

The weather was not of the best but dodging showers the events were not seriously inconvenienced by the rain. The Play was a great success and all of its five performances were well attended. Many in town who came out of duty or loyalty went home to ardently urge others to come. You will enjoy reading a copy when they get some in final form I feel sure. Of course the dedication of the Treasure Room was our big event as far as the Library was concerned and we worked very hard getting ready for the ceremonies. Dr. Crawford paid Mr. Thompson a fine tribute and Dr. Adams spoke on "The Motivation of the Book Collector" in his usual exhorting style. Later this will be printed. He said it had too much "dynamite" in it without revision. I had a very small part in telling of the collections kept in the Treasure Room. The one disappointment was that the Portrait of Mr. Thompson did not arrive until after the exercises, due to some failure on the part of the gallery shipping it. But we had it in place Sunday morning so that hundreds saw it. Mrs. Thompson was here and I hope was pleased. The rooms were greatly admired.

Since your room is not to be dedicated until fall, we did not make a feature of it tho the furnishings were in place and the books on the shelves. But a number of people demanded to see it so it was opened and greatly admired. The cherry is beautiful, the table as fine as one could ask for, I think, and the low shelving charming. One mural at the inside end over the wide counter was in place and attracted a great deal of pleasant comment. Mrs. Morck's son gave some more money so we are to have a rug of the homespun variety that will go under the table and save the floor a little. Simple draperies and nice lamps on the tables make up what I hope you will like. It is simple, rich looking, and very well adapted to use. Mr. Schwegler likes the room so much.

Commencement exercises out of doors were perfect with Bentley as a background for those on the platform and the hills for the audience. If a few green worms walked up and down our backs, it did not matter greatly.

I hope you are by this time much better and able to be in the country which is lovely here and I know equally so in Conn.

The staff join in affectionate good wishes, and look forward to seeing you in the fall for the opening of the Lincoln Room.

Devotedly yours,

ER