

February 18, 1935

Dear Girls:

I fear you will think that I do not appreciate the friendly letter you wrote me just before Christmas. If you think so you are all wrong. The letter came just as I was leaving New York for the Christmas holiday. That holiday was complicated by very serious illness in my family which kept me away until the middle of January and when I returned it was to a desk so piled with work and correspondence that I am not at the bottom yet.

Then, too, I have delayed answering you because I wanted to say I was sending you several of my books for the bookcase they tell me you have in your living room at Tarbell House waiting to be filled. I am sending the books not expecting you to read them but only to show what I have been about since I left Allegheny so many years ago. I doubt if they prove that I am worthy of the honor the Trustees and Faculty have done me in naming your pleasant college home after me, but at least they will be something for you to point to when a visitor comes along and says, "Why in the world Tarbell House?"

It was a great disappointment to me that I could not get to Allegheny in the Fall when the house was opened. I understand I am to have a room there, that I am literally to have my home with you when I go to Headville. It is not going to be long now - I hope to go out for the March Board Meeting and to spend three or four days there. That will give us a chance to get acquainted and judging from your letter that will be for me a great pleasure.

This letter I am carefully depositing in my small chest of treasures. Thanking you all for writing and signing it and looking forward to meeting you, believe me

Cordially yours

*Your*