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Miss Martha Tarbell,
84 Beech Street,
East Orange, N. J.

Dear Miss Tarbell:-

It is very thoughtful indeed of Miss Ida Tarbell to confer with you about the matter mentioned by you in your letter to me of October 16th. Undoubtedly, the public confusion in regard to your point of view and her point of view has caused you both some embarrassment, and has had an effect on the sale of the Guide.

It is very difficult for us, however, to know just how we can help in this matter, for I really think it would be unwise to emphasize any individual concrete episodes under the circumstances, and I think that some such statement as follows, by Miss Ida Tarbell, of course, worded in her own way, might be helpful.

> "Everyone seems to have his or her own point of view regarding the Temperance situation. When privately mentioned, these view points often clash in personal conversation, and when publicly spoken or written, sometimes they cause confusion. For instance, it is rather amusing and somewhat embarrassing for Miss Martha Tarbell, author of Tarbell's Teachers' Guide, which for twenty-six years has been used by Sunday School Teachers, to be criticized for what really are my own statements about Prohibition and Temperance! Evidently our names have caused confusion, and I regret to learn that some Sunday School Teachers have discontinued the use of Miss Martha Tarbell's Guide, because they felt that they could not support her opinions about Prohibition.
>
> She has consistently remained a defender of the Eighteenth Amendment and I have been quite on the other side of the fence. Her literary work has been to help Sunday School Teachers and my literary work has, of course, been in quite a different field. Each of us is perfectly sincere in our convictions, but some people seem to get us rather confused with each other. "

Of course, the above is rather rambling and possibly too long a statement and I am sure that you can condense and improve it and then Miss Ida Tarbell can use it in any way that she thinks wise.

Yours very sincerely,

JR.

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