520 Byrne Bldg., Los Angeles, Cal.

Mar. 27, 1912.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I have been following your articles in the American with great interest and the March installment,- "The Business of Being a Woman",- is the best statement of cold, hard facts on the subject that I ever read. It is much better than any sermon I ever heard and I wish it might be published as a leaflet and scattered broadcast over the land, and every woman over the age of twenty-one compelled to read it. If it wouldn't make us see clearly many of our shortcomings, I don't know what would.

I am an "old maid" alas! Not from choice, however, and while I realize only too keenly that I have, as you so forcefully point out in this same article, missed the real reason for my existence, yet I cannot help seeing all around me, every day, women who are blessed with a home, a mate and children and who are not only missing more than half the joy they might have in life, but are also letting those children grow up a "menace" to be later "turned over to society". When you ask: "Has this shifting of responsibility no relation to the lowering of our commercial and political morality", I think you have hit the nail on the head and put your finger on the exact spot that is to blame for our present social and political conditions. Children seem to be no longer "brought up" but allowed to straggle up in any way they can. They seem to be taught neither morals nor manners, neither square living nor right thinking, and in the last analysis it seems to me the blame rests with the mothers and fathers,- but

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most with the mothers, as you point out.

What you say on the subject of keeping girls in ignorance of "the central fact" of their lives, is exactly what I have longed for the ability and the chance to say for many years, for it is something I have felt keenly about and have tried in my small and feeble way to preach. I am rejoiced to see the awakening there seems to be just now on this long neglected question.

I can't quite understand why you think it's not necessary for women to have the vote, feeling as you do on all these other matters, for it seems to me that is a very essential tool and one that should have been in our hands long ago. My own idea is that we would have far fewer of the type of woman you so ably describe, had we had equal voting powers with men long ago. However, that is only a detail, and your article goes far deeper into things than the mere right of suffrage, and you have certainly pointed out some very weak spots that should have attention if we are to do our part in the life of the world. I have always been an ardent suffragist, worked hard for it for many years and am more than glad to have lived to see it an accomplished fact here in this state.

I only meant to write a line or two when I started just to thank you sincerely for the good I am sure your writings will do all women who think for themselves.

Sincerely yours,

Mary E. Haskins.

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herewith submit to you; and exactly similar conditions prevail in every occupation open to women (save perhaps writing.) The slowness with which they vanish and the incalculable harm they do may be in large part attributed to the persistent sweet pleasing politeness with which all present day anti-suffrage women confuse the facts and issue.

Incidentally it may be significant that "the little woman who made this great war" and all her illustrious family were suffragists, that every woman save one whose photograph you print as a "leader" during the crises of the Marne a suffragist. Concerning the highly "appreciated" feat of Miss Carroll of which you speak I have (never having myself before heard of her) inquired of eight army officers. (one of them fought at Donalson) Six had "never heard of her". - one merely laughed, and one "believed he once heard some nonsense about it". I have consulted four elaborate histories of the period, not one of which mentions her name.

Respectfully Yours

Mary F. Rankin M.D.



To Miss Farbell

Madam:

I have read your articles in the American and in consequence take the liberty of forwarding to you the enclosed.

It is just possible that it may modify a teaching which runs always through your writings and does to those of us who each, great harm

It is not the strong anti-suffrage bias for this is comparatively an obstruct prohibition; but the far more dangerous faith that there is no discrimination at present extended by men to women in the world of endeavor and of bread getting. - That every thing is now all right. - Because a woman may teach or practice law or medicine, or be employed by the Government, or work in a factory she therefore does so upon just terms.

The exact contrary of this is true and the persistent giving of this false impression is too vital and grievous to beneficence to pass unchallenged, as also the teaching that it is either indelicate and unseemly to speak the truth upon these subjects and say where discrimination and petty tyranny still exist when they do still exist.

The square deal accorded to the feminine medical practicioner at the present day of enlightenment I