The Carl-Leon Hotel,
INDEPENDENCE, KANSAS.

March 28 1905

My Dear Mr Phillips:—
I have just come in from my week in the "field" and have the first mail I've had from the office for ten days. It was not wise to have it follow me into the I.T., proper told me this accounts for the delay in returning the enclosed letters. Was there ever such hopeless idiocy! If I ever had any notion that Mrs McC was a rational being it has disappeared now and this poem — and her sending us a copy! I have no doubt she would like a sonnet a piece from us celebrating her amazing virtuousness. I know that is nasty but I cannot keep my temper when

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I read her letters. Of course there is nothing to do but try to laugh and keep calm. Its a wonder they don't want the poem published in the Magazine!

I've been having a busy time for a week-almost incessantly in motion. The travel is abominable and the hotels only fit for pigs but somehow one don't mind. I've driven miles over the most wade you ever saw - was out yesterday in a "dust storm" they call the most for years. I've not been clean for ten days. I don't know that - I ever shall be clean again for the water is nothing but thin mud. But the wonder is that discomfort doesn't count out here. One falls at once into this wonderful eager determined exultant procession. You see

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everything easy. Every miserable little town is a "world's centre" to be — every well is to be a gusher — nothing was ever so great as the I.T.! It takes all my resolution not to sell all 2 yr got and buy town lots and take up oil leases. I've been shown around in great shape. I'm glad you don't know some of the things which have happened me in the way of ovations! One of two are so funny I think I'll have to tell when I get home. The row here is all laid at my door. The conservatives tell me I'm upsetting society and the radicals call me a prophet! I think

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I shall get a good article on Kansas but there is a second on the oil situation in the I.T. which ultimately will be important, I fear tragic. The mix-up in the Territory between White-Indians-Negros-the government, agencies, oil men etc is something which sooner or later is going to cause an awful clash. I have been gathering material for an article I have made some good relations.

I am sorry I can't get the Kansas article for June at least I don't think now I can. I'm still to visit Chanute. I must return to Topeka. There are a good many odds & ends to pick up & I want to stop at Kansas City. I shall hardly get back to N.Y. before the 8th or 10th and glad enough I shall be to get there.

I hope you are keeping well

Faithfully yours

Ida M. Tarbell

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