Mr. President:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I wish to explain why the Board has conferred upon Miss Tarbell the degree of Doctor of Literature. Miss Tarbell graduated at a college very much like Knox College. After some years in editing she spent three years at the Sorbonne in Paris learning how to write. Her work at the Sorbonne would entitle her to this degree from Knox College. Afterwards Miss Tarbell wrote a Life of Abraham Lincoln. Her account of the early part of Lincoln's career was regarded by Mr. Dana as one of the ten most important books for Americans to read. This work would entitle her to this degree. But Miss Tarbell's greatest work, the result of five years of investigation, her History of the Standard Oil Company, is practically the most important and influential work of the last three decades. The amount of work required in investigation was unparalleled. The achievement in presenting her material extraordinary. The effect of her work in the industrial, the commercial and political and moral activities of the nation was marked and recognized by the great authorities both here and abroad. This work alone would entitle her to this degree. Miss Tarbell's work is the work of the hour. She prepares the work to meet the contemporary demand. In this respect she resembles Shakespeare. Aside from these achievements Miss Tarbell possesses a singularly fine nature. I think

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one may attribute to her a something like moral grandeur, a gentleness and force, an ability and insight, that fully entitles her to this very great honor and recognition from Knox College.

S. S. McClure

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