Harbor Hill
Roslyn
Long Island

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I have delayed answering your letter of October 13th until our first meeting which was on Monday last, as I wanted to follow your suggestion of expressing your position in the suffrage question before the assembled members of our council.

I am afraid that in my first letter to you I did not clearly define just what the object of this

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council is. My idea is, and the idea of the others working with me, that the suffrage movement in New York is at present in grave danger of being run into those channels suggested by Miss Trixy Friganza, Miss Loebinger and other women of that stamp, and that therefore the phychological moment has arrived for the serious minded members of this community to lay out a plan of preparatory work, which will insure intelligent and conservative consideration on the subject.

Several of the members of our council have various opinions on the question of suffrage. Several believe in municipal franchise, others in complete franchise and others again are not convinced that they believe in suffrage at all.

For this reason the members of the council are unanimous in asking me to request you to join our body. Perhaps after you have worked with us during the coming year, you will feel like withdrawing from the executive committee of the Anti-Suffrage Society ; but this is something for you to consider, and to settle, without consulting me, or

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anybody else on this council.

At the meeting on Monday, which lasted from one until four o'clock, there were present, Mrs. Blatch, Mrs. Bourke Cochran, Mrs. Nathan, Mrs. Lydig, Mrs. Simkhovitch, Mrs. Edgerton Winthrop, Jr., Mr. Charles Sprague Smith, Mr. William M. Ivins, Mr. Melville Stone, Col. Harvey and Rabbi Wise. Mr. Rollo Ogden was unable to leave the office of the "Evening Post", Mrs. Aldrich wished to spend the day with her brother at Rokeby and Dr. Aked backed out at the last moment. Nevertheless

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you dine with me on that night and go afterwards to the opera with me?

In order to make our board sufficiently large to accomplish results, we have increased our original list by Mr. John Stanchfield who has accepted, and we have suggested Mrs. Henry Miller, Professor John Dewey of Columbia University, Mrs. Howard Mansfield to whom I have to write.

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The first piece of work which I have had to do is rather interesting. On Saturday last the "New York Times" published an article, evidently given out by the Anti-Suffrage press agent, stating that at their first big meeting Nicholas Butler of Columbia University was to preside and deliver an address. I have known Mr. Butler for a long time, and known him pretty well, and it did not seem to me that he was the kind of man to lend his name to such a meeting. I therefore wrote him and asked him just what it meant. I want to quote you his answer : "Your letter of October 31st is the result of a false alarm. I did not see the paragraph in the "Times" to which you allude but I have not been invited to take part in any anti-suffrage meeting nor have I consented to do so. In fact I carefully eschew all meetings in society which have the word "anti" in their sub matter. Perhaps the misunderstanding is due to the fact that at the request of

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Secretary Root I have consented to read a letter from him at a meeting to be held in the near future the purpose of which, as explained to me, is to endeavor to interest women more widely and more intelligently in matters of public concern. This undertaking seemed to me a commendable one and I was glad to do as Mr. Root suggested."

Directly I received this, I telephoned Mr. Reick, one of the editors of the "New York Times", and asked him if he would publish a letter from me on this subject.

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He said he would, so I saw Mr. Butler, wrote a letter to the "Times" quoting from Mr. Butler's letter, and I expect this will be published either tomorrow morning or Friday morning.

I should like to urge you to join our council because I am sure that you and I together will accomplish just the kind of work that I am planning for our committee. I do not feel that I personally have have sufficient

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experience, and I certainly know I haven't got any tact, and for that reason I rely on you, your judgement, your advice and your help. I assure you that every member of the committee feels just the way I do, and I hope to receive an affirmative reply from you as soon as possible.

Affectionately yours,

Katherine Machen

October fourth
Nineteen Hundred Eight.

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