

2 St. Nicholas Place, New York.

October 9, 1914.

My dear Miss Tarbell;--

I want to thank you personally for your valuable discourse yesterday. I gained substantial benefit from it and know that many others did also.

It is not probable that you have singled me out from the mass of other club members of Pen and Brush, or know anything about me, but I am impelled to ask the benefit of your great experience in a vital matter. I have reared and educated my daughter in an exceptionally careful manner; she has had an excellent training, knowing three languages, and also, having added to a fine English literary training stenography and typewriting, with a view to obtaining a position somewhere in a publishing house. And now that she is ready to take a place there is no avenue open; on account of the unnecessary business depression. She has some qualities that would make her valuable anywhere; thoroughness and punctuality and quick adaptability. But the girl is rather too daintily bred to enable her to fit into a commonplace business office. She would try, but why sacrifice superior culture when it ought to count for something? I have always stood between her and the rough world and I am still trying to do so. However, that is not the point; the question is to find her any sort of occupation that will help to pay her expenses. I have written four books during the past year, two having been brought out last spring through the Harpers and two to come out this fall. But while doing this I have been spending all my accumulated funds. Now the pinch comes. I am a trained editor--having been assistant editor on six magazines and managing editor of one; but I cannot now find any work. Can you suggest any place or any work that can be done out or at home, in the way of editing or typewriting MSS. or anything of a literary nature that has immediate money in it? I have vainly advertised and sought. Please pardon

this personal letter. I write it with reluctance for I know it is putting myself before you in a somewhat obtrusive light. All I am asking is a practical suggestion, for alas, with twenty years' experience at my back of New York literary life I have not yet acquired that totally business-like attitude which is essential to pushing one's way. I have been too much a desk worker, perhaps, and scarcely objective enough. Many people envy me my "success" because I have written nine books; and the small amount of money I manage to live on would astonish them.

I shall be more than grateful for any practical suggestion you can give me. If you know of any opening anywhere--Grace would make a good social secretary, perhaps, for a charity worker, or a bureau--will ^{you} put us in the way of it?

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

