

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL RELATIONS
CONGREGATIONAL EDUCATION SOCIETY
14 BEACON STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

November 22, 1928

Miss Ida Tarbell
120 E. 19th Street
New York City, N.Y.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Some time ago my attention was called to the National Illiteracy Crusade, Cora Wilson Stewart, Director. Her objectives seemed so worth while that I wrote to Mrs. Stewart asking to have an article for our Adult Bible Class Magazine. The article was published in the September number. I am sending you a copy.

Recently, a protest has come from a minister in Kentucky who says he thinks Mrs. Stewart's statement is grossly overdrawn. I quote from his letter:-

"I can only speak as to the Moonlight School business. My only experience with her was at an association when she made the statement there were four thousand children in Knott Co. in Moonlight Schools and I knew every part of Knott and there were only two of those schools in Knott and they ran only a few nights.

I think that is one of her pet schemes for raising funds altho some good doubtless has been accomplished thru such agencies in these parts of the mountains. I am familiar with Knott, Leslie, Perry and Breathett, and to some extent with several other counties and I can say safely there has been little done thru the Moonlight schools in this part.

There is so much bunk written about these people and conditions here that it is disgusting."

Another minister writes:-

"I was astounded to find Mrs. Cora Wilson Stewart's article in the September Adult Bible Class Magazine. I had always supposed that she was a sort of educational T. P. Barnum who made teachers institutes and other uncritical places."

I should be grateful for your judgement of Mrs. Stewart and her work. I am writing also to Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, Miss Jane Addams and Mr. William Allen White.

Cordially yours,

Hannah Hume Lee

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HHL:W