

January 29, 1937

Dear Miss Tarbell;

The enclosed clipping will tell you of a recent gift of an item to add to the Lincoln material in the Reis Library at present. The manuscript statement of several pages written by Mr. Pitman himself after the trial might have some value for your collection. There was a good story in the Erie Times also but I do not have an extra clipping of that to send you. The little drawings by Lew Wallace will also have some value, as interesting souvenirs, if nothing else. I feel very deeply grateful to the Misses Pitman for this gift since I can think of a number of libraries where it might have been given by them.

This is the end of the examination period so most of the students are away but the Library goes on as usual. Dr. and Mrs. Darling returned last Saturday after a residence in California of six months, including a lot of traveling, on his Sabbatic leave. They arrived just before the flood conditions became so dangerous in the Ohio Valley. There was high water here and a little inconvenience but no great damage. But the water from French Creek contributed its share to the terrible conditions in the towns along the Ohio. Pittsburgh escaped such terrible losses as it had last year but the danger was sufficiently grave to cause a great deal of anxiety and loss. Cincinnati is in very grave condition as you have doubtless heard over the radio.

Allegheny has had a good first semester and the second will go rapidly. We have been working very hard on the gifts of books received last year. The Elbert Smith Library is more than half catalogued and the books from Mrs. Kidder are being started. The Hamw / Missionary Library

and the books from Mrs. Perry(Huidekoper) as well as those from Capt. J. W. Smith are still to be done. We have 26 student assistants, mostly on N.Y.A. basis who do a lot of work. Quite a lot of work is being done on the Original Library too tho we have not yet had money to furnish the rooms properly, nor to fit up the Browsing Room as we hoped to do. The Elbert Smith books are in a corner of the Periodical Room and so we get a semblance of a Browsing Room in a corner.

Dean Skinner, the new woman who succeeded Dr. Miller, seems to be a finely poised and agreeable person well fitted to deal with girls. The recent high water after some days of rain flooded the Little Theater and caused a lot of inconvenience and damage to the properties stored in the pit. We have had rain and rain and rain but no snow to mention since mid-December which makes a very open winter for this part of the state.

I trust you are well and not working too hard. Will you get a vacation in the South this winter? We missed you at the fall meeting but hope you will be here for the next one.

With affectionate regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,