HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DIVISION OF HISTORY, GOVERNMENT, AND ECONOMICS

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

8 June 1912

Dear Miss Tarbell:

May I tell you how much I have enjoyed your recent articles in the American Magazine on the work of American women, and how cordially I agree with what you there say? I cannot help thinking how much they would have pleased my father. All of these things needed to be said and to be said in the way you have put them. One thing that has often struck me is the weakness of the social sense in the small town, and its failure to utilize its human resources, even those that wish to help. It is so easy to fit into the existing social organization in a large city and so hard without the aid of system to face the individual problems of the small town. Of course you are asking a great deal in the way of insight and perception and initiative on the part of American women, but, unless the problems are faced in that way, no amount of organization or legislation will solve them.

I think the last time we met was in a Cambridge street car. If you are ever in Boston or Cambridge again, and have a moment of free time, will you not let me know?

Cordially yours,

Marcus L. Hawkins

Miss Ida M. Tarbell.

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