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Call up Monday

August 15, 1929.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I have been away on a vacation but today I talked to Bigelow about the article you said you would like to write on the mental health of the young girl of today. Bigelow said he would like to talk to you about it.

Apparently there was a Mrs. Halley - Wells of Harper wanted her to go around and investigate the women's colleges and try to write a sensational article about them. Apparently he wanted her to show that the morals of the girls were loose. She went around and didn't find anything to justify this article and Wells refused to take it. She asked Bigelow if she could write an article for him and he said no, but he sent her out to the mid-Western coeducational colleges, and she wrote an article on the idea "If Your Girl is Safe at Home, She is Safe at College". Bigelow said his own daughter was out in one of the mid-Western colleges. He doesn't very much believe in the segregation idea but does believe in the coeducational idea.

He thought if you extended your researches to the coeducational colleges that you might find the girls healthy and normal. Now you may not want to do this as it would involve time and money and the return might not justify the expense, and if a large enough number of girls at the colleges exclusively for women are not in a normal state, that would seem to me to make the basis of an interesting article. On the other hand, as Bigelow said he would like to talk to you about this, I don't like to tackle another magazine without telling Bigelow. In other words, he is a good market and interested in your material and I don't want to offend him, so I'd like to get your reaction to all this before offering the article elsewhere. Will you let me hear from you?

I am also approaching a magazine with reference to the article that you talked to me about on prohibition.

Yours sincerely,

Paul R. Reynolds

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 E. 19th St.,
New York.
PRR/P

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