Lakeland, Florida,
817 College Avenue.
September 25, 1940

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
I/C of her Publishers
New York.

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

This letter will certainly be a surprise to you. If an unwelcome one, you can blame it solely on that last book of yours :"ALL IN THE DAY'S WORK " . I trust, however, that your surprise will be kindly and as genial you are yourself. At any rate, I just simply could not do anything else than write to you for the way in which you spoke of my revered teacher and friend Dr. Jeremiah Tingley of blessed memory!

And I want to tell you how I came to know him and how he influenced my life thereafter. And also to tell you of his life after you left Allegheny College. I had much to do with Doctor Tingley in his last years, years that began in misery and disappointment, and ended with the Peace of God.

In the Spring of 1887, the teacher of Latin and Science in the Pittsburgh Female College on Eighth St. in Pittsburgh had to retire on account of illness. For lack of better material Dr. Mercress, who was in charge of the College, asked me to fill out the term. I had no experience and quite inadequate preparation. Like you when you went to Poland Ohio, I needed the money and accepted. The following Septemeber I was elected to a "FULL PROFESSORSHIP" -at $500 and my board per year.!! I am sure I was not worth it.

Shortly therafter Dr. Mercress, whom you might have known, came into my class room accompanied by a kindly faced man past middle life, and introduced him as Doctor Tingley, who was to be my Assistant.!!! That was when I first met our common friend.

It seems that there had been an upheaval at Old Allegheny and Doctor Tingley had been thrown out.

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Just what was the cause I never knew. Dr.Wheeler,Dr.Montgomery,and Dr. Flood,along with many of the trustees were intimately concerned. As I was taking a post graduate course at Allegheny.largely in absentia , it was none of my business to get mixed up with it.At any rate.from what I learned of the character of Professor Tingley. I cannot conceive that a man so filled with loving kindness could possibly have been in the wrong. At any rate.he and a number of others were "out".

Doctor Tinglay and I soon became friends. We divided the work between us, and I soon made him understand that he was to be the directing head and I to be the "assistant"

As Doctor Tingley and Mrs.Tinglay were absolutely without funds and it was necessary to provide bread and shelter for them. we devised a plan that would bring them some funds apart from the pittance he received from the College. We started a night school in Chemistry to be given in my laboratory,with me as assistant, all the fees to go to Doctor Tingley. It was successful,but even so it was not adequate. As the good Doctor had many friends in Pittsburgh it was not much of a task to procure for him a position as teacher of Chemistry in Allegheny High School.where our friend Willa Cather at that time was teaching English

Doctor Tingley was very popularboth with the students and with his school board. His salary was quite decent and he was afterward promoted to the head of the science department.

Then ensued the happiest days of his life. He and Mrs Tingley had ample means,he had a lovely home, anddhis students andcolleagues made it a camping ground for Saturday and Sunday evening. The years went on, and the age limit for Doctor Tingley forbade his continuance as a teacher. His BOARD (the italics are intentional) did not feel that way. but continued him as EMERITUS teacher with full salary. He really had no assigned work and could do as he wanted. He coun-

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selled with pupil and teacher alike , and made himself invaluable.

Finally. full of years and graciousness.he passed away. beloved by all who had come under his wondrous thrall. Mrs Tingley was not long in joining him. And so in death they were not divided.

As Phillips Brooks said in speaking of our great president: "May God make us worthy of the memory of Abraham Lincoln ",I make the same prayer when I think of my beloved friend.Jeremiah Tingley.

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Because this letter is Longer than I had planned, I am tempted to make it even longer and impose upon your good nature to that extent. I want to talk to you about another of your friends- a common friend.

When I was a senior in the Pittsburgh High School,it was my custom,in company with other students to make long trips -geological and paleontological,about the wonderful hills around Pittsburgh and Allegheny. One bright October afternoon we were working on the hills near the Allegheny Observatory. As we drew near to the buildings of what was then called the Western University. we heard a tremendous din. An old steam engine was in full play,and above its exhaust we heard a shrieking clatter that was awe-inspiring. As we drew nearer to the cause of it all,we saw what we afterwards knew as a Whirling Table. Two beams of wood..about twenty feet in length.were whirling around at a great rate. Attached to the beams,which were at right angles.were curious objects at different points along the beams. They looked like birds with outstretched wings, and we found them so to be. Off at a distance,behind a screen with an opening for a telescope connected with a device for measuring angles, was a man.observing the angles made by the bird wings,at different rates of speed. Unconscious of the import- of this question being intelligently put to Nature, we were looking upon the inception of the Aeroplane. The man was Samuel PierrepontLangley.

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I.M.T -4,

This was the beginning study in the position of the Air Ship.Alas. what promised to be a blessing to mankind. has become its greatest curse

Now, another thumbnail sketch of Langley. One Saturday afternoon I was sitting on the steps of the old Observatory, awaiting the coming of Professor Frank W.Very, my instructor, and the assistant of Dr. Langley. A lot of gamins were flying kites on the brow of the hill.about 100 yards in front of the building. I noted the immaculate swardd, and wondered whether it was permitted to fly kites in that neighborhood. Suddenly the door of Langleys study flew open and he rushed out toward the boys.His momentum and size made me think that some of the boys were due to go over the hill.This is what happened:He had just run out in his usual impetuous manner to----show the boys how to adjust the tails of of their home made kites!!! The boys knew him- and loved him.

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I am teaching post graduates in Florida Southern College for nine months of the years, and the other three months I live in my home on Martha's Vineyard.Massachusetts, where I revel in the sea and sometimes visit Penikese, of hallowed memory

Very cordially yours,

James Gordon Ogden

Allegheny '90.

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