

Typed by C. Tupper

Ada P. McCormick
Tucson, Arizona

(Letter from Ida Tarbell
to her family. Probably
Fall of '93.)

My dear^{est} Family:-

I did not intend to write you today, but my mail this morning brought me such a funny thing that I really must. It was a letter from the Dr. Think of it! I had made up my mind I would never send anything until he made me a proposition. I was sure when I heard of his defeat he'd write. If he had been elected I can wager anything I'd never had a line. But here's a copy of his letter:

Nov. 28

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
Paris, France.

Dear Madame:- (I thought I'd die laughing when I saw that "Dear Madame.")

I have not answered your letter of Sept 27, (Please note that its two months since I wrote him) till now because I have been devoted to other things (the underlining is mine. I suppose he means tapping his barrel) I trust you will accept this as my apology for the seeming neglect. (I do, Theodore, I do. I know how busy you were.)

When I spoke to your brother about your writing for the Chautauquan it was on the basis of a letter I addressed to you at Titusville, bearing the date April 1, 1891. I said:

"When you decide what parts of Europe you will visit and your plans are matured as to what you will study while there, I shall be pleased to consult you about doing some writing for the Chaut."

(He's got the documents on his side but he hasn't the spirit of truth by a long shot.)

In a conversation with you in this town at a later date I confirmed this statement. It is with sincere regret that I learn by your letter that some of "your friends" had reported to you that I would not give you any work and also that you say: 'If you have changed your mind etc. I am willing to write,' (there is evidently something the matter with his construction there, but he never was strong on his construction). This is all a misunderstanding - the only time I refused you work was when I declined to have a department conducted by anyone outside the

Paris
2230

of office

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I would be pleased to have you write two articles for The Chaut. of about 2500 or 3000 words each on the "Salons of Paris." I will send you my check for \$100 for the two articles. Please let me know if you accept this proposition and oblige, etc.

What do you think of it? I'll write the articles. I think it would be simple not to, don't you? And I'll be polite when I answer him. Its only just I should have a connection there, if I can make it honorably and without any danger of ever having to be called upon to "use my influence" for him. If this connection succeeds, with my work for McClure, for Scribner and with one other connection I hope to make with Harper's Bazaar I'll be all right but I'm afraid it means Paris for a few years. We wont think of that though. I'm ^{doomed?} doomed to be a wanderer and Paris is as good as New York and better from a money point of view. If I could arrange to go home once in 2 years for a few weeks I wouldn't dread it so, but time will tell. You may take it as a Xmas present however that this connection with The Chaut will probably be from a money point a good thing. Don't worry over it, mother. It is much more sensible to do it, than from any false pride or resentment refuse it. It is always embarrassing to explain to people that I do not write ^{now} for The C after so long a service there. Now that will be removed. It is a more dignified connection too, than mere newspapers and there is money in it. I shall be comfortably fixed soon for ^{money} money. McClure owes me about \$150 and I hope to have it soon - he's very careless they say, but sure enough, I ^{new} fancy and as I'm new with him I don't want to be urgent. I have a story ^{out?} out which in my opinion is better than France Adoree but its not accepted yet. Then I hope in a few weeks to send a good article to Scribner on Mme R.. I dont know what it will bring but at least \$100. It takes time, but I'm going to make it as

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sure as the world, if my health holds out and at present its superb, so
don't worry about me, dear folks, but have a Merry, Merry Xmas and pre-
tend that oil is high and the debts all cancelled. There is too much to
be thankful for to be blue.

I rec'd Sara's letter today. Will answer soon.

Lovingly

Ida M. T.

Paris
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