R. T. DURRETT,
202 EAST CHESTNUT STREET,
LOUISVILLE, KY.

Louisville, Ky., Nov. 28, 1908

Miss Ida M Tarbell,
New York City.

In answer to your question, my dear Miss Tarbell, about Mary Wollstonecraft's "Rights of Women" having been circulated in Kentucky towards the close of the 18th century or the early part of the 19th century, I have to say that her book ought to have been circulated here on account of the presence of her friend, Capt. Gilbert Imlay. Imlay was here as early as 1784 and remained as a surveyor until about the time that Miss Wollstonecraft's book appeared in England. He wrote from here two books, one a topographical history of the Northwest territory and another a novel entitled "Emigrants" published in London in three volumes about the same time. He was quite well known as editor and writer and his relations to Miss Wollstonecraft must have been known here as well as in England and in France and these relations being known ought to have sent some of her books across the Atlantic for sale and use here, and yet I cannot say that such was the case. There has been such a waste of books in Kentucky that it is next to impossible to preserve them so long as this may have been preserved. I can only recall a single copy of her "Vindication of the Rights of Women", which I find was catalogued in the Lexington Library, which was the first established in the state. I think that this volume of the Rights of Women was published at Philadelphia in 1794 and was therefore a reprint of the English work. Anyhow, this volume having gotten into the Lexington Library makes sure that one copy at least crossed the Alleghanys and nestled in Lexington, Ky. I am sorry that I am not able to give you any more reliable information upon this subject.

Truly,

R T Durrett

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