

January 12, 1931

My dear Mr. Lessenden:

I have your letter of January 2nd, saying that you have seen in the recent issue of the Star and associated papers an article which I am quoted as being "opposed to prohibition." I have not seen the article to which you refer but it is true that I am opposed to prohibition. I am not the writer whose Sunday School teachers guide you have been reading for so many years - and a very excellent one it is too, as far as my examination goes. It is written, however, by Martha Tarbell, an entirely different person. I have been much distressed at this confusion and it seems to me culpable that people will not take the pains to find out, in a case of this kind, whether they are right before they condemn. This "slap dash" condemnation of Martha Tarbell's works, because people confuse her with Ida M. Tarbell, really angers me. It is unjust to her. I hope my dear Mr. Lessenden, that you will take pains to correct the error wherever you come across it. I can assure you that Martha Tarbell's views on temperance are what they have always been.

Thanking you for your readable and kind letter and hoping that you will help clear up the confusion, believe me

Very sincerely yours

Mr. C. M. Lessenden
Downs, Kansas