"THE NEST AT RIVERBY"
TELEPHONE- ESOPUS 21-F-21
WEST PARK-ON-THE-HUDSON, N. Y.

Jan. 27, 1916

Dear Miss Tarbell,

Sunday the 21st found me head over heels with work — I have 3 of my brother's children with me this winter. The two girls go to school (& a poor affair the school is here), & John works at Col. Payne's — at out-door work. He gets 1.50 a day, & it is hard to have some one earning something. He & I get up at 5.30 — we all read together evgs, & are usually ready & go to bed before 9 o'clock.

Ever since I bid out the chicken business for my brother (with a few weeks' exception) he has been going down hill, drinking & neglecting it — so it was money thrown

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anyway – but it seemed all I could do, at the time. The others in the household are powerless to stem the tide, at such times.

I am doing what I can by making sure that 3 of them are well cared for for the winter, & that one is learning to work regularly.

We have pleasant days together. The leisure I hoped to have for writing this winter does not materialize – this same days, by neglecting a lot of things, I get a little done – but work done under such conditions is poor work, I fear.

So much for us.

Mr. & Mrs. Burroughs are at Experiment, Georgia, & neither of them are very well. They were in

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Washington several weeks & got ill there - both in bed part of the time - he with his old Enemy - auto-toxaemia - & she with "shingles." (Herpes Zoster)

I have been very anxious about J.B., but he has not been seriously ill as he was last summer.

I hope your mother is keeping well - & you - I'm sure you are doing good work of some kind.

I have often wondered what you thot - or rather, how you felt - about Mr. Ford now. If only you could have got his Ear instead of that Madame Schumann - Herr Lochner & C &c -

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With his good impulses, but uncritical judgment, he needs strong wise counsellors—

The lavish waste of money when money could do so much to mitigate the overwhelming misery in the world today, is what I think the most deplorable part of it all—

May your mother's rest be a real boon to you!

I wish you could come here for a week end in the Spring when the birds & the Burroughs's return.

Affectionately yours,

Clara Barrus

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