Cantine
P.S. (?)

192 W. State St
Trenton
N.J.
Nov - 27

Dear Miss Tarbell :-

I have just read your very interesting account of Bedford & most heartily agree with its conclusion - When I was living in Switzerland about three years ago, I found myself without a servant three months before breaking up housekeeping permanently - One had married & it did not seem necessary to replace her so I had arranged with the cook to do all for my daughter & me until we left - She, however, heard of a permanent place she feared to lose & so left us without anyone - It is difficult, especially abroad,

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to paid a good servant for so short a time - However I laid my case before an agent & offered higher wages in consideration of the circumstances - Next day when I came in, my young daughter (she was eighteen then) said a very nice looking girl had come but she wanted especially to see me - & would return - She did return later and as she began to speak her eyes suddenly welled over & she said, "Madam, don't you see my condition - I have been deceived" - Well, her story was simple - very young & guileless, she had taken service in a café & an Italian boatman on the Lake of Neuchatel had married her & then left for France - She

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had given up her place to him her situation began to be apparent & had arrived that day in Tuscaume - The high wages & short engagement attracted her mode - I said I would look into it and would probably take her but she said she had all her clothes there & feared more expense & I finally said, "Go up stairs & stay tonight & we will settle things tomorrow" - I went up to show her the way & I never saw any face clear as hers did when I took her in to a room above with beautiful view of lake & mountain - Well, her story was fully corroborated & her elder sister, a good woman, came to see me & told me how Henriette was a girl who never went out was so "safe" & of so happy disposition that they had

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not feared for her - I sent for my doctor & all arrangements were made for her delivery - and the sister & brother-in-law (who refused to pidge) agreed to take the baby, Henriette paying its board & clothing. I told my daughter the whole story & she was deeply interested, doing all she could to spare Henriette & helping with the layette. Henriette blamed no one but herself - and yet one day she said to me, "Madame, are there no books or any way for a girl to learn things she ought to know" & added "I am not the only one" - To make a long story short We left before the confinement but she went from us to board in the house of an former servant & from

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there in the hospital where
she gave birth to a lovely
little boy - For a month or
two she had a good place
as wet-nurse but her
own child was ill & she
had to leave because of
worry - Then the Dr. sent
for her & gave her a
position in his Children's
Hospital where she has
in two years time acquired
a considerable experience
in dieting & training -
I have promised her that
if ever I keep house she
shall come to me - In the
meantime we keep in touch
with her - She is devoted
to her child, has accepted
her burden with courage
& simplicity & if only her
mother would forgive her
& her fellow women ser-
vants were not so cruel
to her, would do very

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well - But these women, many of them far worse than she, make life hard & discouraging - If the chance offers I shall one day bring her here child & all and marry her to some good man - For the girl has a heart & has fought a hard battle, refusing from the first to make a claim on the man - I asked a promise from her to give me a year's reference from the Dr - She has gained a two years certificate & the work has been hard & she shows that it has -

I only write you this because I feel that "woman's inhumanity to woman makes countless thousands mourn" even more than man's inhumanity to man - Henriette has a sweet womanly look - She

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is good — & yet I saw a little cocotte in Paris with dead-white coat to her heels & painted cheeks & picture hat who was so like her that I could not help comparing their lots — one in the kitchen struggling with hard work & the scorn of her fellow servants — the other driving in automobiles & caressed & enriched — of course we know that in the long view Henriette will be saved & the other must sink — but when in deep water we can't always take long views & then she needs a friend — protection — succour —

— am not an Idealist — I would not take a depraved being into my house — & suffered once terribly from that sort of "idealism" but the "preservation class"

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of the Good Shepherd has always appealed strongly to me - and I see no reason for discouragement in any cases I have been close to -
I write you this only because I believe that you are entirely right and that all the hard ships comes after from the hideous pursuit of despicable men & the still more hideous cruelty of women who help them - I was astonished at the attitude some women took about employing my little protegée who had told all the truth & concealed nothing - They considered their houses would be infected by her presence - I had to go to a man whose specialty is women & children He treated it as an incident

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merely & has more than once called the women servants to order - Her brother-in-law simply said, "Henriette was always a good girl - Yet the child come here - It might have happened as well to another as to her." But her mother (who was to blame in letting her leave home so young) has never forgiven her poor little Gustave - If the girl had not found help she would have been on the streets for she was afraid to go home -

Believe me, Miss Farbell, with admiration for your work,

Sincerely yours
Julia G. Waterman

Mrs Humphrey Waterman
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