McCLURE'S MAGAZINE,
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June 18, 1909.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I should have telegraphed you from Galesburg and written you long ago, that Knox College had conferred upon you the degree of Doctor of Literature, but I have been very much rushed. It happened in this way: Colonel Carr and I were two of a committee of three appointed on degrees for the Board of Trustees, and the Colonel suggested your name, which was a mighty nice thing for him to do, and which I jumped at. It is customary there when a distinguished person is up for a degree, on the occasion of commencement when other degrees are given, to make a short speech to the President, telling why the Board of Trustees wish to give it; and I was called upon at the last moment to give the speech. It was taken down in shorthand and I enclose a copy of it.

Three years from now I want you to go out there for commencement and receive the degree, as they will have a great time then, it being the seventy-fifth anniversary of the college. They will have an extraordinary celebration. Anyhow, the point of this letter is, that you are now a Doctor of Literature of Knox College.

Very sincerely yours,

S S McClure

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
c/o American Magazine, City.

Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library