

Bryncliffe
Woodstock, N.Y.
Aug. 9, 1927

Dearest Miss Tarbell,

I have been going through unanswered letters this morning, trying to get a little "caught up" with my friends. It is always more or less of a chore for me to write letters and here in the woods my laziness is accentuated.

I was about to tear up the inclosed letter after answering it and then it occurred to me it might interest you. It is from a Bohemian girl whose responsibilities ^{are} ~~were~~ as great and whose spirit ~~was~~ ^{is} as fine and unflinching as any I have ever known. She never even finished the grammar grades as she was the oldest of a family of children whose father drank himself to death. He used to beat her mother and it was she who once said to me, "But you know these foreign women, Miss Gilson. They'll take anything off a man," yet she had great love for her mother, as this letter indicates. After twelve years as a machine operator in our factory in Cleveland she married a policeman. I used to go and have dinner with them occasionally and never failed to get inspiration from the fine sturdiness of character and the genuineness of that little family. It touches me deeply to have them ask me to visit them and I'd love to do it sometime. There is nothing polyanish about their enjoyment of life but both Anna and her husband have faced so many hardships and hurts that they seem to have a real sense of fundamentals.

Please excuse the many blots! I am writing on my lap out under the trees.

With a heartfelt love,

Mary Gilson

Do not return the

letter. I know you will enjoy the comment on Mrs. Fair & her trials!

If you can't find
how this letter is paid please excuse (Ann)

CLEVELAND, OHIO

June 16 - 27

Dear Miss Gilson: —

Received both
your letters and sure was glad
to hear from you. I've been
cleaning house for Mother as
she is not very strong anymore.
Oh may God keep her healthy
for a little while yet, as she
bought a home near us last
October. The first real home
she's had. We thought we'd
lose her in November as she
was awfully bad then we had
3 doctors. But she's getting

2 along nice now. But Deuse and I have to practically do all the work but I'll willingly do it as I only had a taste of what you've gone through. But don't you know when our time is done we all must walk alone. I do hope the terrible memory will ease for you and you know she wouldn't want you to fret as you're here to do things she'd have pleasure seeing.

Oh Miss Gilson if you could see my beautiful flowers from my hubby as I had my 31st birthday yesterday. Do you know Miss Gilson, I've always worked hard and must yet never know how far my money must yet reach, but I've known one thing the beautiful companionship and real love of my husband and children. He's been and is yet a real sweetheart and pal and a real daddy to his kiddies. Gee! I sure wish that we'll be together for years to come so that thought alone is enough to reward me for all the sacrifices I've made and ready to make. Just wish you were near us to ~~enjoy~~ enjoy some of my

home life. Not only written, but meant.
Grace has been taking music and
I wish you could see her fingers
on that piano, she just loves it,
little schottische and waltz and
marches, but they're real pretty.
She's a real girl too and that
little Henry! well you might
know. Not sassy or nasty but
heaven help me if he isn't in
one thing it sure is another and
worse at that. But I love him
for it as he wouldn't be like
his dad if he wasn't. His dad
hasn't got all his buttons
collected yet Ha Ha.

Oh I have so much to say
you'll be tired of my letter

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 but here goes. —
 Terese is living near me and has
 one son 5 yrs old.
 John hasn't any but is real
 happy at that.
 James at home is 20 yrs in Nov
 " " " " 18 " " "
 Celia " " " " " "
 Ruth 15 yrs in July.
 So you see they've grown up
 big and strong through all the
 hardship Dad left Mother in.
 James is not earning much as
 he's working as a Postal sub.
 which means a good position
 later. Celia is a stenographer
 and dictophone operator but

She's only earning \$15.00 a month and has been with the firm 2 yrs. But its a small concern and its so hard to get work elsewhere and she a real worker too. Her employer said he wished he could pay her more as she is worth it. They treat her real nice and Mother knows she's safe. Ruth is taking a commercial course and will finish next June. So that's my family history. About Joseph & Fieiss: — Well things look real bad Employees only work 3 days a wk. sometimes 10 days layoff. no bonus any more and the service staff is practically discontinued since Florence Metzger left. Do you know she has 2 babies? ^{Hanna} ~~Helen~~ Augustine is married and Helen her sister is a trained nurse. Of course I suppose you know Helen Pfeiffer went to see Dick Peiss & Mary Stennan and they say they live like songbirds. They're living in Boston. The main thing is their happiness as gossip was and always shall prevail. Well Miss Gilson I must save a little for next time or you'll say my but Anna's a gossip but really I don't do much visiting as I do all our sewing and most of Mother's so you see I'm

kept real busy, no rest for the wicked Ha Ha
Do write soon and tell me more about your-
self and if you ever come to C. bus, do stop
by us. It may not be perfect in manners &
surroundings but it will mean a real
love to have you.
Will send you a snapshot of us by ~~you~~^{my}
next letter.

So must close all though I could
write another hour. Hoping you may
yet be where we can spend some
time together I'll close

With Love & Best Wishes
for your happiness
I remain
Yours
Anna

Of course had would want
him and his best
Wishes also!
Bye.