Los Angeles Calif.
806 West Adams St.
March 23rd, 1910.

My dear Miss. Tarbell;

I do not ~~intend~~ wish to burden your precious hour and mind,-but I feel that I must put a few facts before you-. First of all however,-to say that I enjoy your records in the "American" of the noble women of our time, exceedingly. And am especially happy that our dear Lucy Stone is duly treated. She was one of the earliest and most effective "pioneers", and has not been as fully recognized as is her due. The daughter Alice, is worthy of the parents in all ways. I hope that you have full data of our dear, and able, Fanny Gage.- Mr. Hart wrote me for facts, and I could only send you the picture of her in her book of poems. But there is a record of her in the "History of Woman's Suffrage" by Susan B, Anthony. I knew her well, and was at the Convention over which she presided, in Ohio, and "Sojourner" made her memorable, her masterly rebuke to the ministerial disturbers.-Went with her after that thro' Western Ohio and Indiana on a speaking trip, and had "the freedom of the City", at Indianapolis,-a rare honor for women in that time. She was said to be the first white child born in Ohio, in Miami valley. Showed passion for rhyming at an early age, and used fences, house wall, &c for her scribbles. When her husband's business grew dull, she used to start on trips thro' the West, Speak on Temperance, Agriculture, and home topics, at the numerous farmer's county fairs, and return ~~with~~ supplies for the family's winter store. She had two daughters and six sons, and used to boast of the many feet of six-footers whom she had sent to the war. Mrs. Gage and I called a mass-meeting at Cleveland in

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the early fifties,at the time of a Republican convention there;had a crowded house and among our speakers,John P. Hale,Joshua Giddings,and Salmon P. Chase.Mrs. Gage was active in these cases to the last,She was of the famous family of Boston Danas."

This may be altogether too late for use,and you may have all the dates.I have inferred from some hints,dear Miss. Tarbell,that you mean to include my name in your list for my Club work.If so, and not yet written up,or only from my Club-book,I would like to add a few items for your sketch,which do not appear in that.— First,,that after my report for our Cleveland dailies of the Akron convention and the forming of a State Society, I was delegated to offer our Suffrage petition to the State Senate,and was finely introduced by my neighbor and friend,Judge John A. Foote, then a member of the Senate, and who was a brother of Commodore Foote of Connecticut.—Later to give a lecture in our new Library Association Course,and took as my topic,"Humanity; a Definition and a plea", under which of course,I brought in woman's political disabilities and needs.(a crowded house,and lady present behind three veils,who had sought to prevent the meeting,and to pledge society women to remain away!) This lecture I repeated by request, at Elmira Water Cure" while a patient there,and "to women only"; but found Thomas Beecher, (also a day-patient) secreted there.The lecture was approved., and was repeated again at Tremont Temple,Boston,in the Theodore Parker Fraternity Lecture Course. The hall was packed to ceiling,and I was comforted by the kind eyes of Elizabeth Peabody and Mrs. Follen,below the platform,and still more,by word that Mr. Parker had called me his choice for the position.

In Boston,I was one of the founders of the New England Hospital for Women and Children;and after the war,of the New England Woman's Club. Spoke little on Suffrage platforms,but told our dear Lucy,that the Clubs(Womens Clubs)would bring more securoty than

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by any other effort of mine, (this when she smilingly upbraided me as a back-slider). Leaving Boston in 1875 with my husband to make a home here for our two sons, I founded the Kindergarten Association; a Woman's Club, ~~first~~ in Santa Barbara, then in Los Angeles, - followed by our large and leading Friday Morning Club, now 1,000 members, ~~and~~ housed in its own fine home, and a power in the community.

Altho' not in active service now, I remain Honarary official in many organizations, and ~~am~~ interested in all. Use my pen occasionally, and am blest with a devoted family, and many beloved friends. —

The first Unitarian Chh was initiated in many civic problems our Library, as was the "Los Angeles Fellowship" under B Jay Mills, & when I must be labelled, I call myself a Unitarian plus — which includes any new ray of light who may dawn upon our horizon under the telescope of the Golden Rule. If that is a fit figure of speech! You may wish to hear the fate of the Leaders, wh. I had friendly & advice. Lee White was interested, but finds that he was not a dramatist - but seeking one for his own book. Annie is now with my good friend Mrs Rincaid on the Delineator & Mrs Gertrude Andrews the playwright lodges with her. I do not lose faith in the awakening of some of the women now left with fortunes, who can be spurred to the step wh. I indicate. Have just had a fine personal interview with Mrs Russell Sage, at her request, & found her much more than the ~~gt~~ hoarded philanthropist being earnest in good Causes & very cordial & gracious to me. One thing she so much wished to know, if 'tis an open secret dear Lady - whether the rumor be true, that it was your mother whose Rockefeller Refinery J D R. crushed? Dr Ed. here has just drawn a sharp parallell between his prayer & the Pharisees in Scriptures

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Pray forgive me, once more, my dear Miss Tarbell, for this wretched scribble. My companions is away, & it is done at twilight, & from my hammock. Upon pencils - but indelible. I wish I think you were shared the bestow of yr. winter & Spring weather, in the glorious sunshine now beating on me.

Your admiring & grateful but troublesome friend. Lode L. Semmes

Remember my years - forgiven.
If you see the Woman's Journal, (exchange) as I hope)
You will notice perhaps "the two birthdays in one week"
If my 40th here. My life is still rich in blessings.

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