

3508 Winchester Avenue
Ashland, Ky.
January 8th 1931

Miss Ida Tarbell,
120 East 19th Street,
New York City.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

The January Bulletin of the National Arts Club carries the announcement of my appearance at the club on the evening of January 21st at 8:30 P.M. I shall speak about the Elizabethan ballad as it survives in the mountains of Kentucky. I hope you will find it possible to hear me, and how happy I should be to have you introduce me. I am sure you will be pleased to learn that my first book called DEVIL'S DITTIES, with a foreword by my dear friend Miss Lucy Furman, is to be on sale February 14th. The book, so Miss Furman declares, is the first of its kind ever offered, in that it links the ballad with the daily life of mountain folk. I have told the story of the 'occasion' for singing the ballad and have fitted into each story a ballad- using it in the place in which it would naturally be sung. I began with the infare-wedding and with ten 'occasions' including a mountain funeral, play-party etc., have touched every phase of mountain life. Part II of the book contains complete text and melody line of more than fifty hitherto unpublished Elizabethan and mountain ballads. I am speaking at Town Hall- fireside meeting- on the evening of Sunday February 1 at 8:30. I am counting on you and my good friend Mr. Merle Crowell coming to hear me at National Arts Club.

Sincerely,

Jean Thomas