

Typed by M. Cloud

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Ada P. McCormick  
Tucson, Arizona  
September 24, 1945

(Letter from Ida Tarbell to  
her family - 1891)

St. Denis Hotel  
Broadway and Eleventh St.  
New York

August 5, 1891

My Dearest Family:

Instead of writing this letter as I expected last  
yesterday to do in the saloon of the Friesland, I am compelled to  
the use hotel stationery and write in an ordinary room in an ordinary  
house, situated on terra firma. We cannot get to the ship until after  
7 o'clock, a fact which makes us stay in New York until after supper  
time in order to get something clean to eat. After our dewy parting  
in Titusville I worked hard for an hour or two to keep myself from  
getting off at stations and coming back. I felt just as I did the  
first month at college and the first term I taught school. I wanted  
to back out, but wouldn't for the name of the thing.

Mr. Fleming and Dr. Quinby entertained us to Conry where  
Mr. F. left coming back to bring each of us a new magazine for a  
parting gift. You know we expected to meet a party of Chautauguans  
at Mayville but nobody came, not even Elda. I think something must  
have happened for nothing but an earthquake could have kept Elda  
away. Neither did the Ishams come to the station at Buffalo. We had  
time to eat our lunch there: the box from our house was all we opened.

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The sandwiches and peanuts were delicious, and we just finished the last one in time for our train. We had a comfortable night and caught some beautiful views of the Hudson this morning from Poughkeepsie down. The girls met us this morning. They came on yesterday in order to have the ride by daylight. They had a room at the Hotel so we have had the use of it today. A blessing which I especially have appreciated for I am rather tired.

We went down for our tickets this morning. I send plan of ship with our berths marked. They gave us all the advice we needed and sent us a splendid place for money. I asked the man to send you pamphlets explaining our the plan so that when you all come over you can have your money sent that way, small sums go beautifully, you see. I have \$150.00 in \$15.00 checks, good at several banks in Paris, several hotels and stores also. We get a premium too on our money. I have actually made 40¢ today in having \$35.00 American made into French currency. We already have French, Belgian and Italian currency in our party.

Jo's lunch was used for our dinner. The girls bought fruit and we furnished the substantials and had a first taste of our Paris plan. You see it hasn't been an expensive day. I have spent 20¢ for breakfast and 15¢ for street cars.

You may send the telegrams to Mrs. S. M. I. Henry at Silver Lake Assembly, Silver Lake, N. Y. and to Mrs. E. J. Towle  
741 Ave., Evanston, Ill.

Do not worry if the cable does not come so soon as you expect it.

I have staid in this afternoon to rest while the girls

Paris 2.

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shop, but they will come very soon and I must stop. The next letter I mail you will bear a foreign stamp I imagine. I shall look for letters with great eagerness. Do tell me everything. I shall be interested in the least things that happen in the two households which are the dearest places on earth to me.

Good-bye everybody,

Your Loving Traveller

Ida M. Tarbell.

Paris 3.