341 So. 5th St.
Brooklyn, N.Y.
Sept 26, 97.

Dear Miss Tarbell,

While you were lecturing at Bucknell University two years ago, I had the pleasure of obtaining a personal conference with you. At that time you said you would be glad to hear from me, as I am taking this liberty to ask you a question which has caused me much worry.

My father and I have written a novel jointly which the immediate family and friends consider very good. We wrote to the Bureau of Copyrights at Washington and received a bulletin informing us that novels could not

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be copyrighted same after publication. The Common Law copyright seems to me useless in that there is no assurance against appropriation of the story without the trouble of law suit.

Miss Tarbell, how can one assure protection before handing the work over to a publisher?

I have also remembered your advice about dealing directly with a publisher or editor rather than through an agent. However, if you could suggest any reliable agent or publisher I should be most grateful.

You said you thought I could write and it

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remains to be proven.

Thanking you a hundred times over for any inconvenience you may undergo on my account, I remain,

Sincerely,

Ruth Schreiber.

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