Typed by C. Tupper

Ada P. McCormick
Tucson, Arizona

(Letter from Ida Tarbell
to her family. London,
1894.)

154T My Dear Family:-

I have been waiting to write to you until Mr. McClure of New York should come and I could see my way across the Atlantic or know if I am doomed to stay here. He arrived this morning and sent for me to lunch with him. I am just in at 4 o'clock. Well, to begin with - I am going home. I can not believe it is true, but if nothing interferes I shall, at the end of May or in June. Never mind the time I am going. I have six articles in hand now to finish up for McClure and he has promised to give me enough for them to "buy me some clothes to get home." He can afford to. I've been drubbing my poor brains over here for him for a year and he hasn't given me anything to amount to anything - except compliments. He is free enough with them - but he's Irish to the core and a dear fellow all the same. It seems my articles have had some compliments from high sources for their accuracy - which is some like complimenting me for being able to add up well - and he is pleased. He wants me to go to New York into the office, to tie up to them, etc., make me a member of the staff with full editorial prestige, etc. and a chance to write etc. I do not know. I presume I'll do it, but I must see how things look in New York first and whether there's anything but drudgery to do. "ouldn't it be fine if I could live in New York. Think of it, I could see you sometimes! At least it is sure that as soon as I am rested and my book is done, they have a place for me. They would like to have me put some money in - take stock so as to receive "dollar on dollar", etc. etc, when the magazine begins to pay. At any rate its good to hear Mr, McClure talk if I don't make anything from it.

The present probability is that I shall go to Glasgow to do the

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Drummon article, for Mr. McClure goes up himself to see if the eminent Prof. will let a woman interview him. I do not relish the task at all, but I think, perhaps, there is a little extra money and a bit of sight-seeing and some fun in it. It must be fun to see Mr. McClure and Prof. D. together at least.

155T "ere I am spendin all my time in the British M seum and in gathering together material for my article. I am writing one on the Cable ystem - another in the making - and Laying of Cables, which is very interesting. For this later I have been two days at Woolwich, 9 miles from London and spent the day each time under the direction of the Liemen's chief electrician. They treated me very finely and gave me lunch in the office, etc, etc. I really did achieve something the other day in getting into the Greenwich Royal Observatory. It is sealed to all the world but distinguished astronomers, so the rules say and yet I wrote a note and told my errand and the Royal Astronomer himself came forth to meet me and took me within the gates. I don't know the a, b, c's of astronomical instruments and I actually got out of there witho t their knowing it, though really I did know more when I got out than when I went in. I have done no sight-seeing here at all. It isn't quite right, I expect, but really I do not know where I should begin or rather <u>when</u> for its 8 o'clock before I leave the Library to get my dinner and I am so tired I can not stir when I get home. I still live on vegetarian stuffs. Things look so natural here I actually had oat meal porridge today and flannel cakes and numbers of things which are native and homelike. I saw an American

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Pullman car, too, the other day and it almost made me cry. There's one thing, if I go home in June, the Emerys want me to stop on my way at State College to visit them, the Vincents and Mr. Hazen, all of whom are to be collected there at that time for a reunion of our Paris crowd. I must stay a week in New York probably. Would you think it very shameful of me to stop 3 or 4 days with the E's - that is if I can for + expect it will be a great deal harder for me to do it than for you to have me. I can not afford to go back there and more I would never have the courage to when once home. I don't believe a locomotive can pull me out of the house if I ever get there. Please tell me if you will think me"horrid" to stop with them a little time. I am writing them that I must find out what you say first. I have only time to mail this now. Goodbye and write me often - always Rue Malhanche, though I dont know when I shall get there again.

Lovingly and Always

Ida M. Tarbell

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