

Happy Hollow Farm
May the nineteenth
1918

B

My dear Miss Tarbell—
Your good letter
came yesterday, and
made me twice
glad: first, because
you understood, and
then, because of the
possibility that there
may be a place where
I could prove my
fitness for some part

of the big tasks that
women are finding
to do. ~

I could not be specific
in writing to you at
first, because I felt
I was presuming in
writing to you at all.
As you say, few of us
escape the pet of
some problem. In
my case, it is nothing
more than the very
very old one of financial

stress. - Mr. Lighton is an
idealist - temperamental -
gentle - unselfish - with
a big heart that trusts
all humanly - I don't want
him any different - because
his work stands out clear,
honest, clean-cut & bet, in
all the years, there have been
times, often months together
when there has been no provision
or patron for the butcher -
the baker - the candle-stick
maker. - This has never been a
serious fret to Mr. Lighton &
he has always worked hard -
often beyond his strength,
but his big optimism carries
him on top of the waves. The
past-year has been particularly
difficult, - almost every cent
of income has gone to pay

2. a debt of some unfortunate real estate investments he made a few years ago -

Now, to explain how I have reasoned within myself: - For years, I have tried to find some source of income that would relieve the stress and cause no hurt to anyone - and no neglect of duty to the blessed

family & From an
 economic point of
 view, I know the work
 I have done in the
 home has had a real
 value - but just now
 the need is so different -
 Luis has gone - and
 the boys who came out
 with him from school
 for week - ends for
 a day's hunting - or
 rest - or anything
 they chose - they have
 all gone, too. & Dorothy

is a rare girl - twenty-four
-capable - lovable - self-re-
liant - devoted to me -
with no big interest in
anything outside the home
= I do not speak French -
but for I should love to
go = I could be away for a year
or two now - Dorothy would
be the stronger for stand-
ing quite alone - without
my daily help - she and Mr.
Lighter are most companion-
able - and the little girls
need only the material things
for a while - I would
not take from them, but
would have so much more
to give them - later when
they will need me more -
I love you for the things
you said about our home
= I can think of nothing
that would make me even

3 consider giving it-
 up, voluntarily. Our
 needs are so simple
 and I shall be the
 happiest person if
 I can find the best
 way to use my time
 and strength to do
 the greatest good.
 Louis writes from
 Austin that the
 Y. M. C. A. is the great-
 est factor for good
 in their camp.

I miss him so desperately - his youth
and strength were
always an inspiration
- I hope you are quite
strong again - the
constant demands on
your time and strength
I know do not leave
much chance for gain-
ing the overtax. -
My conscience pricks
for adding my problem
to your cares and

many demands - & they may
come a time when I can
show my appreciation,
for I certainly do respec-
tfully your goodness to me.
Lovingly yours
Laura Lighter.

Trayettville
Arkansas. Mrs W. R. —