

The lines I wrote in Malvina Hoffman's book to which she refers refer to a point which is important in the consideration of this American Life scheme. I wrote:-

^H"To Malvina Hoffman

^H"A wise craftsman who refusing a fifth receives a whole.

^H"From Ida M. Tarbell

^HA foolish craftsman who accepting a twelfth lost all - or nearly all! ^HThis came out of what ^{was} said at the P & B Author's Afternoon, I trying to explain where I was a ~~was~~ twelfth of a thing - ^{that 2 was} ~~the subject to the Author before, the Author after~~ and to a Board of Editors with whom I had signed a contract which allowed them to do practically what they wanted with my text even to the English and I quoted how they had changed where I said, "Poverty was no legitimate child of progress" to "No con-comitant of progress." I left it to the P & B to decide whether they had ever heard such a word as con-comitant out of my mouth.

M H took this up when she spoke of her book and referred to the fact that she was offered a fifth of the Hall of Man undertaking but refused it. Unity impossible with five sculptures, disputes put back the work. I think the result proves her contention, at least she got the contract and put it through. My instinctive reaction to Dr. Schlesinger's request that I do this particular book was, "I would like to do the whole series." I could see the series in one hand. The question is

is to find how whether or no there could have been a thread -
examine the plan to see if the editors had a plan or whether
they were intent upon gathering exhibits of all kinds of
activities - philosophies. Rather the latter, I think.