

2220 Locust Street, December 20, 1909

Miss Ida Tarbell,

341 Fifth Avenue, New York.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

At last I have had my talk with Mrs. Oliver Hopkinson, but just as I thought and as another friend has told me, Mrs. Rush took little interest in public affairs. As I probably said in one of my articles about her, she was a student up to the last day of her life, and yet she took little interest in the subject of the higher education of women. In fact, the higher education was not much thought of in her day.

With regard to anti-slavery, as one very clever old lady said to me, Mrs. Rush took no interest in it whatever. In fact, only a few queer people entered into that subject^{in Phila}—the queer people were such people as Lowell, Whittier and their associates; but that gives you the point of view of the society lady of Mrs. Rush's period. As for a woman's suffrage, that was relegated to a few women in bloomers. Mrs. Rush, in her wildest moment, never thought of it. She was distinctly a social leader, but at the same time she was an extremely kind-hearted woman, although blunt and very independent about what she said. The story of her having refused to receive some lady who was not invited to one of her balls and requiring her to leave the room, is said to be absolutely without foundation. Ill nature, like death, loves a shining mark, and Mrs. Rush often came in for unpleasant stories which were absolutely untrue.

I am quite sure that this view of Mrs. Rush is the correct one, as it agrees with all that I have heard of her in the past from various

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