

BUREAU OF PUBLICATION
VASSAR COLLEGE
POUGHKEEPSIE
NEW YORK

Mar. 19, 1925.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th St. . .
New York City. . .

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Are you prepared to resist as urgent and
appealing an appeal as I can make?

It is going on nine years since I started
a writing course here entitled "Journalistic Writing." I
make no pretense of teaching Journalism (if such a thing can
be taught) but I set a wide variety of journalistic tasks
and keep them at it. In these few years quite a surpris-
ing percent. of my graduates have gone out into journalistic
work, if ~~you~~ may include advertising and publicity and
editorial tasks as well as newspaper reporting under that
head.

On April 24 and 25 the Educational Director
of our Alumnae House here has planned for a so-called Journal-
istic Conference, one of a series of such conferences that
aim to bring together graduates interested in a discussion
of their vocational or avocational pursuits. The direction
of this small reunion has been thrust upon my shoulders. I
understand that quite a number of our graduates, mostly
young ones, are coming back here then and expect me to tell
them something useful or at least reinspire them. But they
know all that I know and they have been applying it. I want
those two days to be really profitable to them. They will
come up from New York on a two o'clock train Friday afternoon
and there will be an afternoon session here at 4:30 P. M.
after that train arrives, then a session Friday ~~afternoon~~
and one Saturday morning. If I could persuade you to come
up here and chat with them at one of those meetings, I
should feel tremendously hopeful about the whole affair.
I do not want any formal addresses but if I could have two
people who have gone through the drudgery and the drill of
practical journalistic work in the world, and get them to
answer questions or talk a little about how to go forward
with writing ambitions, that would be just the thing.

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I can do a little better than pay expenses, but not enough better to dignify the check by the name of 'fee'. I should refer to it as a generous expense check that would cover all possible expenditures on the side, and leave a little over, and we would try to entertain you pleasantly here and offer you the keys of the college for as long as you would consent to stay.

This is very much of a personal appeal. I should like to think that these young graduates of mine were coming back to a really helpful meeting and I should allow my ambitious young embryo journalists of the classroom here at Vassar to attend ~~the meeting~~. You would have a small and earnest group as an audience and you would not need to prepare an address,--only be prepared to answer questions and discuss.

Friday, April 23 and Saturday, April 24 — and you could choose your own time, though I should like to have you here all of the weekend as my guest, and the guest of the college.

Very sincerely yours,

Burgess Johnson