

21 Whittier Place
Indianapolis
Indiana.

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

I did not suppose that anyone would really read my letter through, much less that it would fall into your hands: and I made it so long as I did because a protest without a reason seemed unworthy even of so negligible a quantity as myself.

I see that I misunderstood the attitude from which you approached the subject and I am sorry. I half feared that it might be so, you were so evidently trying to fit large thoughts with small compass, and also, as I now know, with the thought of previous articles in your mind which I had not read - an error on my part which shall be corrected. But all that you write must necessarily carry such a weight of influence with it, that I thought I ought to speak in behalf of the quiet stay-at-home women, who so seldom have a spokesman that their attitude is often misrepresented even by those with whom they are in entire accord. But that I should have blundered in doing so shall teach me caution. Perhaps I underestimate the danger which you point out, the defeminizing of women seems almost ludicrously impossible to me. That women in trying herself out in new fields of endeavor and not having yet found herself in them, should ape the manners and methods of men is not surprising. But this will pass: Dame Nature is no at her job. And already women are bringing inimitably feminine methods to the conduct of business. I should think a greater danger lay in the direction of unfortunately perpetuating by educative traits, not natural, but acquired through generations of limited education and environment. It should be hard at this stage to define what should be the direction of woman's development.

In any case, dear Miss Tarbell, as you are strong, be merciful! Remember you will have many stupid readers besides myself, and in weeding out the tares be careful that you do not pull the wheat up also, at least until our English sisters have reaped their harvest.

With most sincere appreciation of the courtesy which you have extended me, and with heartiest good wishes for the splendid work which you are doing and which, in other lines, I have followed with deep interest, I am

Very Sincerely yours

Mary Stanley Siddell.

January 16th, 1912.