Dec 22, 1927.

935 LOUISA STREET
WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA
TELEPHONE 2-1686

Dear Miss Tarbell —

The Things I sent by mail need a little explanation — The tan cover is for loose manuscript when you are travelling — It's made of DuPont window shade material so it can be scrubbed with soap & water. (although it might be safer to let it dry flattened out under two dictionaries  to keep from warping. The ribbon was pasted on to tie your material in, but may

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944. Allegheny College Pelletier Library

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prove a curse & can easily be ripped off.

The blue book is for any sort of scrap book you want — The fillers for the index tabs are in the envelope at the back, your secretary can type headings on them & whatever you want to keep clippings on —

And probably you won't use either — Arent systems of filing things endless — First I had cards & they became legion — Then big manilla envelopes — at present about 200, & so losing all individuality — for the words of wisdom, that the youngsters at school [illegible]

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935 LOUISA STREET
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copy & illustrate, each makes a book like this. It gives them an easy way of keeping classified things, besides rummaging through their desks — reprints, clippings or photographs — & paste a lot of typed things in a book myself in running this class that I don't want to pose but whether it would be any use in collecting material for an article I don't know —

You must already have the best & easiest ways worked out — lucky woman — but I wanted to make something for you with my own hands —

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935 LOUISA STREET
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TELEPHONE 2-1535

And I don't mind if you throw it at the cat — I'd just be sorry. What you know anyway, that I'm thinking about you —

That last letter I wrote you was absurd — We are both having an uproarous time reading aloud — "and read beyond those dead there is more sea." I can't get used to the superb amount of books in the world — Also we aren't scared up & I'm buying all the books I want — a very different business from trying to get things at the Library —

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935 LOUISA STREET
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TELEPHONE 2-1625

To have a mail man drop two books, three books in one package is my idea of a millionaire. I adore it.

Do you like Marcel Proust — a year or two ago I read a little of him (from the library.) 'Swann's Way.' It seemed the most wonderful writing I'd ever struck — But I was afraid of him too — Very puzzling both with people & with books whether to plunge in — & say "life is bad as well as good — look at it" or whether to choose the Things "whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things (and people) are honest —"

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

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935 LOUISA STREET
WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA
TELEPHONE 2-1635

The villainess of the modern world
is the prig — she who stands
aside — But how can one do
work without standing aside —
without a certain choice & solitude
of the spirit. It's so puzzling —
how to be neither blind, nor tainted.
Saint-Simon seemed to manage it. Problem
On for a small concrete example
Whether to plunge into Proust —
I think I will — & yet —
Political economy effects me the same
way — The individual soul
becomes zero — Terrifying.

What a Christmas letter!
I hope Christmas and all the
other days will give you what
you want — dear Miss Tarbell.
Yours absurd & happy
& wanting to see you —
Ada McCormick.

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