

July 14

Dear Miss Tarbell,

I am so sorry I could not get to the Grosvenor to see the visiting English notables. But Miss Poole's note did not reach me until noon of that day and it was too late for me to arrange to go to New York. I have to make special housekeeping arrangements, when I take a day off to go to town and have to plan ahead for it.

It was most kind of you to include me in the invitation and I am so sorry I could not get there.

I am enclosing a letter from Louise Platt Hauck because she says something at the end so very lovely --about you-- that I want you to have it. Do not trouble to return the letter.

Her application for membership has come and I have filled in my part as seconder and am forwarding the papers to Mrs. Chisholm. I hope they can be voted on at the September board meeting. There was delay about the matter because Mrs. Chisholm by error filled in a lot of the application blank that should have been filled in by the applicant, and another set of papers had to be secured and sent to Mrs. Hauck. Mrs. Chisholm had never done this job before and said she did not know how, but I have now put red pencil marks everywhere she must fill in on the blanks. So when you get the application blank at the board meeting, you will know what the scarlet symbols mean and not think they are danger signals!

I am working against time now to get my new book done by July 31st --and you know what that means. I am so tired I have to thump my head with my fist, to make it think. Yet no time to rest the poor thing.

I like Dodd Mead very much. They are nice people to deal with. And they have the jacket all made for my book before they have read a word of the MS --I call that lovely and trusting, and a compliment to any author. They told me my book last fall made just 50% of what they could make in a good year...but just the same their 50% was better than Penn ever made for me in a normal year, in the first six months sales. So I imagine, in a good year, they will do much better for me.

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My best love to you, and I hope you will take a good vacation and rest at the country home this summer. Please do not bother to answer this little message. I shall know you send your love silently and will get the greeting.

Affectionately,

Elizabeth Stanley Payne