The Woman Citizen

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Miss Ida Tarbell,
120 East 19th Street,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I'm afraid I'm not as ashamed as I should be over not having answered the various letters - not so many, after all - from the Phi Beta Kappa, but I am deeply and overwhelmingly ashamed at not having answered yours. As usual, the time has been flying because it has been so crowded with work, and I didn't realize how desperately rude I had been until I confronted the date.

I suppose the real reason for the delay was acute indecision on my part. I did not see my way clear to make a contribution of any size to this cause. There are so many things claiming contributions and interest, and it happens that a goodly number of the others are closer to my heart than this one - not that I am not concerned with education, need I say? - but this particular means of furthering it has not appealed to me as any more important than the contribution to my own college, which greatly wants it.

So I am simply, in spite of public opinion, "chipping in" the way one does when the hat is passed after the big contributions have been taken up. If you are ashamed to send in this tiny check, send it back and I'll do it myself.

But at any rate please try to forgive me for my unintentional discourtesy to a lady who has been so very kind to me.

Very sincerely yours,

Virginia Roderick

VR.CL

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