Typed by M. Cloud

Ada P. McCormick
Tucson, Arizona
October 22, 1945

(Letter from Ida M. Tarbell to her family, 1892) ("Carnavet" at top of page) (written in above first paragraph)

128T My Dear Family:

I am staying in alone this evening while the girls have gone to the museum for me. I have just finished my dinner. You would laugh at my bill of fare I am afraid, but it was good. I made soup, bought 8 cents worth of bouillon, you can get it hot just around the corner, thickened it with a little floor and an egg, that with a little French bread(⌐ ⊂ that shape) and a funny little cake and a cup of tea made my supper. Since Miss Weaver came we have fine spreads. Her ambitious cooking inspired me the other day and while the girls were out to lunch I tried to get my own dinner. I bought something which I took for a little sausage which they eat here a good deal and which I like very much and I fried the stuff with great care. When I began to eat I found I had been frying boulogne sausage. It was about as villainous a dish hot as I ever tasted. But just my luck. You know I never could cook.

I received both Mother's letters this morning, that is the story and Clara's letter and the one with Miss B's letter. You must not be cross at Miss B. and Iris nor worry about my staying in Paris. I cannot stay. The vacation is the only time I am going to have to do my studying at Amiens and Lyon as during any other season I should be missing lectures. Then, too, I know I need a change. I shall not try to trampin Switzerland for I cannot afford it, but I presume I shall go over to Geneva while at Lyon. It is not

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129T far and I want to visit Mme de Stael's home there. That will give me, too, a little idea of Swiss scenery. Iris wrote me that she would like to come and that she would be willing to go with me wherever I went. Well, I'm afraid I cannot invite her to. I shall be settled down in places which it would be foolish for her even to stop at in a short trip. Don't worry I'll excuse myself gracefully. I shall stay alone during the rest of my sojourn unless some of you can come over and visit me. Then, well I'll think about taking you in. I wish you were all over here. What a jolly time we would have. You must come, if not this time, again, for having once been in Europe I'm sure to come again, that is if I stay in literary work.

I have not been doing very much interesting since last week. Thursday afternoon I took off to go to the Carnavet Musée where the Revolutionary relics are, with Miss Weaver, everything in connection with the ~~Revolutie~~ history of Paris is there. The Roman period of the city is well represented. I have been at this musee three or four times and always a guide comes around and points out the nursing bottles of the Roman babies, they are very curious. After the musée we went to the studio of Marie Bashkirtseff. I've been inclined to phooh-phooh a little at the craze for her since I read

130T her journal but I shall not any more, some of her work is remarkably stirring. The faces are wonderfully expressive. The studio is lined with sketches in all stages of finish and unfinish, with paintings, etc., etc. There are many of her private belongings in the room, among them is a case containing at least 40 pairs of shoes, little slippers, most of them, in white, red, black, etc.,

That evening we all went to the train to see the Emery's off for six weeks in Italy. I am sorry to have them go for they

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are very nice but they'll be back and will stay until the first of Aug. After we came home we had callers, our two young men, Mr. Hazen and Mr. Franke, nice boys both of them and very bright. We have made two new friends, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent from Baltimore. He is Dr. Adams associate in History at Johns Hopkins, is writing a philosophy of history over here. She is studying art. We are all getting ready to tramp with the first warm weather. Our plan is to go out on Saturday as early as we can leave our work and go to some chateau or cathedral town nearbye, walking as far as we can and riding the rest of the way and ~~then~~ spending Sunday there and returning Monday. We also are going on a barge down the river, perhaps to Havre if it don't cost much. Jo hopes to get back to join us in May. The Emerys will return about the same time.

131T I went one afternoon last week to the Bon Marché to see the spring goods. I found I could get a decent hat for $1.50 all trimmed, not very nice but very respectable and good style. You can get a pretty straw for 40 cents, good enough for anybody, flowers are "dirt cheap." Annie Towle bought a beautiful wreath of silk poppies for 60 cents and you can get beautiful bunches for 20 cents. Would you like me to send you something of the kind by Jo? The girls bought bolts of velvet ribbon _____ that width for 80 cents for 10 yards. Some of the dresses are very cheap. Before I come home next year, you best each of you let me buy you a skirt ready made with cloth for a waist, Silks are exceptionally reasonable. My new dress of which I wrote you is at the dress-maker's. She is going to charge me $15.00 all made and she furnishes thread, wale bone, etc., not linings, but everything else.

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I enclose a letter for the children and three little April cards, give them to them the first of April, not before. I think they'll reach you in time. The windows are full of them, the cards, just now.

By-the-way I noticed in the telegraph the other day that the Supreme Court had declared the Standard illegal. Is there anything in it and if so what effect will it have on the corporation? We do not hear much American news here save an occasional bit of election gossip. It seems more and more a pity to me that the U.S. must be torn to pieces every four years with an election for president. Why not give people time to raise something beside political

(Last sheet of this letter seems to be gone)

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