Feb. 18th 1927

Dear Miss Tarbell:-

Several weeks ago I read an article in a local newspaper, in which you were quoted as saying "That after all, fame was nothing, that the woman who raised a family of children was the happiest." If you really mean that then you would have a sympathetic feeling toward a fortunate but rather worried mother of six.

My little family range in ages from eleven months to nine years. They are happy, healthy, intelligent children sound in body and mind.

My husband is a draftsman making $165 per month -

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We both loved children and wanted a family, so we allowed the children to come without stopping to consider the cost. We have never been able to save much and due to sickness in the Fall, we are now back in our rent and have some other debts beside -

My husband feels that he will not be able to stand the strain of the drawing board for long and wants to change his line of business - for the betterment of his health and a larger income - we must have more money coming in - Three of

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The children are now going to school and the shoe question alone is a problem.

I want to find someone who will hold out a helping hand, who will be willing to risk a few hundred dollars in a very human cause. This would put us on our feet and give me something to live on while my husband was establishing himself in a new line of work. He has had a position offered him as Local representative for a Northern Paint concern

This means so much to us Miss Tarbell - he has to take care of his

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health - we are anxious to give
these children a fairly good education
we are both healthy, ambitious;
we sincerely love each other and
our children - we do not want
charity - we only want a fighting
chance to bring up six little
children to be good healthy citizens.
Surely there must be some one
with enough love for and faith
in humanity to risk a few
hundred dollars in such a cause.
They would not hesitate to write
a big check to some charity -
would not the returns in this
case be greater & just to help

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two people help themselves -
When I read what you said in that
article the thought came to me that
perhaps you would help me. I want
to borrow $200. I do not know <u>when</u>
I can pay it back ~~as~~ but I know I
<u>will</u> some time. I know that if we
can pull out of this financial rut
and get on our feet we can go
ahead steadily. We have a number
of good friends here but none
financially able to help us, though
if you would like to know some-
thing about us I know they would
satisfy you as to our worthiness
of help.

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I would like to ~~think~~ have help come from you because you are from the North - and we are too - we came down here in 1917 to accept a position in a ship yard and have never been able to afford the fare back.

I have always ~~be~~ felt the urge to write and some day when my domestic duties are lighter, I am going to try my hand at it. My idea is to record daily happenings in the form of letters to an imaginary person. Somewhat on the order of those books that came out several years ago - "The Prairie

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Wife" and "The Prairie Mother"; Though I honestly think I could do better than that author -

Just now, I can't seem to find the time - I do my own work and there does not seem to be enough hours in the day to accomplish everything.

If I have tired you with this long letter forgive me - the matter is so close to my heart, I can't seem to say enough - I hope if you ever come South you will stop off at Birmingham and let me show you my precious little family, and give me the pleasure of meeting you.

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I will be anxiously looking for a reply from you.

Sincerely

Marie Acosta.

Feb. 16th

Mrs. Francis J. Acosta
1807 Fulton Av. West End.
Birmingham - Ala.

P.S.

I addressed this to New York City and it came back yesterday, but because I need help now, even more than I did when I wrote the letter, I am sending it off again, praying that your heart will respond.

March 1st

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