

I have finished my story this week. I am
 afraid it isn't as good as the others - the
 subject isn't - but I shall try my luck with
 it at the Harpers. I wish contributors would
 bring out the others but I know how full
 the Msh. drawers of big magazines are &
 won't complain when I have the pay in
 hand & so much courtesy from them about
 the Msh. work. Of course I am reading for the
 history every day and getting my plan laid out for
 my skinned out of Paris. I am going to make
 a long time but it won't cost me much more
 than living here and as I can go 2nd & 3^d class
 aboard myself. When my plan is mature I'll
 write it out. - We, many I think, are prospering finely
 as housekeepers. It is much easier with 2 than
 3 or 4 & girls. The rent is dear but mine is
 small. We keep our little saloon & the closet on
 bed is in. I get all our meals now except the hot
 dinners we take with Mrs Bonnet. We have not
 heard from Joe or two weeks. Expect a letter every day
 The Egyptians are as nice as ever - that is as in-
 teresting. An awful funny development has come
 out of Miss Wood's the poor old thing who slave
 and apples) visiting with the healthiest. She has
 fallen in love for it - looks like it - with the
 hardest case in the lot and she is so jealous of
 Mary's popularity with them that she won't stay
 in the room when Mary enters but goes out
 crying. I am worried to death about this
 queer complaint; she lives on 10 cents a day
 and is getting thin as a stick. There is no
 sense in it - for she buys heaps of stuff to
 take home. If she goes crazy or gets a fever
 here I suppose I'll have to see her doctor,
 shall of course but I hope to see her

embarked for America just - we are making
some very pleasant American friends. The
Duchess from Hopkins spent last evening
with us & we have an invitation to spend
Saturday ^{evening} with them. The Duons - the naval
men, Miss Weavers friend, have asked us to
spend Sunday evening with them. It is very
pleasant to know them all but we have to be
cautious not to give too much time.

So Miss Estlin thinks she will take French
when Aunt Ida gets home. All right - but I
fancy Clara & Scott better join the class. Well.
We were fun & maybe someday we can all come
on in a body & see Paris together. Wait until
our ships come in and will do it. Tell my sweet-
heart that his Lady-Love wants to go home quite
as much as he can want her to come. I believe
when I get written right of my time for embark-
ing that I'll become stark crazy with joy.
By the way let me know if the little poison-
d'Arvil get through all right. One of the nurses
think that I feared some inquisitive official
might open it. This is the day but I have not
seen as yet anything of it - but the shop windows
- the candles and have blown at fishes from 1 inch
to 3 feet in height & in one toy store one town
there is a beautiful picket fence six feet
long - (artificial of course). But I must stop. Tell
father to take good care of that Cripple couple & not
to overdo at the Wells. Keep well all of us & don't
worry about the market. I'll write my letter Tuesday
to Sara direct - I think. I do hope she is getting
better. Love to every body and mine of her &
Always Lovingly Ida M. Tarbell.