Jan. 1
1906

Dear Miss Tarbell;-

I should have written before thanking you for the Life of Mme Roland were it not that I have been unable to use my right hand (I still write pretty poorly with it) and I did not want to have my secretary write for me. I now understand what seemed to me the untamed enthusiasm of some of my friends about that Book. It is certain. by with out any exception (excepting the author) the most illuminating book on the subject and I

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very Big, that book. I wonder if you don't secretly feel it, yourself.

And your conclusions are so sadly sane. Of course you have noted the dreary resemblance between the French revolution and that bloody and futile ~~drama~~ drama going on in Russia. Squalid farce and grim tragedy in one, is it it. And the people between, inert and pusillanimous and bewildered just as they were in France.

That, too, you make clear. "Only anxious about the price of bread." That's about it. I was immensely im-

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have been an omnivorous reader of books about the French revolution ever since I read (with much inward revolt, equally at style and sentiment) Carlyles French Revolution, twenty years ago. You make plain as no one else I know really does, the two revolutions; and the artificial character of the second.

You make equally plain the crime against humanity which was committed, in vanity and noble aspiration, by those amiable and imbecile dreamers, the Girondists. Oh, I think it is

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pressed by the book and passed it over instantly to my brother whom I hope you will know some day. He is an extraordinarily level headed philosopher at the head of a large business; and with as much pluck as humanity. We still have some such men in the country. He is reading the book with as much enthusiasm as I.

Now, I have spent all the paper and have only enough space to tell you I should like to join the National Arts and the Barnard both, I think: and I shall feel proud to have you propose me. I am thinking up one of your Short Stories. And I bless Heaven I met you!

Faithfully yours Alice French

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