

c/o The Barnett National Bank
Jacksonville, Florida.
Sept. 20th 1939.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
120 East 19th Street
New York City, New York.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

May I have your permission to quote certain passages from your articles "The American Woman" published in the American Magazine Vols. 69-70 yr. 1909-1910? I want to use them in a lecture I am preparing which I am offering this year for Women's Clubs and girls schools, - a talk I am calling Women, What Now?

I am eager to present to women this year the sharp and rapid changes made by War in the lives of all women. I plan to trace the effects of the American Revolution, the Civil War and the World War (1914-1918) in women's individual lives and the great psychological changes brought about by their collective action in public and private enterprise since 1918, - and bring them face to face with the necessity for a vision and a living philosophy to face a world at war.

I served behind the front lines in France and in the army of Occupation in Germany in 1918-1919 when I was just out of college and I spent heartrending days in 1924 in Vienna. Many of my young friends of war years were so confused they felt they had no faith in the purpose and goodness of life to give their children (and yet they went on breeding them!) I have many young friends to-day who are in their early 20s and they have no deep rooted philosophy to carry them through the coming years.

My own living philosophy has been attained through knowledge of the Eastern philosophy of Lao Tsu, the modern scientific philosophy of Eddington and Peattie and the simple and great faith of my black southern friends who bear "the heat and burden of the day" with only the Psalms to guide them.

My life has been deeply enriched through the past 20 years by the close friendship with Harriet Stanton Blatch and Charles Rann and Edith Wynn Kennedy and a few others like them.

I hope in my talk to give something from the work of Olive Shreiner and to quote passages from your articles which sum up the great important changes in women's lives during the past 150 years. And I am enclosing a folder about my lecture-recital on the negro in American literature so that you may know something more about my work in the past.

I have always hoped that I might have the privilege of knowing you for yours has always been a vision of clarity in a dark world. If I am in New York this winter may I come and see you? I need not tell you I am sure that in quoting passages from your work I shall count it a privilege to say that it is with your permission.

Sincerely yours,

Ruthen Trace L. Engle