June 6, 1930

My dear Mrs. Fitch:

Let me relieve your mind at once. I am not the author of the Sunday School lessons and the Teacher's Guide, which you value so highly and rightly. Those excellent works were done by a Martha Tarbell.

Naturally I regret that you consider my arguments in the article in the Woman's Journal, which you have done me the honor to read, as inconsistent. I confess I am not moved from my position by what you say about local option and prohibition - national prohibition - being one and the same thing. But I will not argue the matter with you. I know the sincerity and honesty of your convictions and have full respect for them.

As to your statements of facts; that there are fewer speakeasies than there were saloons - less liquor drunk than before prohibition - it is quite impossible for me to confirm or contradict. So far as I know there is no possible way at present of measuring the amount of drinking that is done in this country. I am concerned only with the effects of prohibition. It seems to me in the interest of the youg particularly, the present situation must be frankly faced. In some way we must overcome the widespread abuse of liquor, which is growing on the country. If the prohibitionist can find a way to do it - success to them. I do not see that it can be done simply by a law - laws succeed only when the consent of the majority is given. Locally it is possible as proved again and again in this country to build up strong feeling for total abstinence, but it is only locally that it has been done. My judgment is that that is the only way it ever will be done. There is where you and I differ. I suppose what we both are after is self-control in our people. I am glad to have your letter. I regret that I cannot agree with you on the method of overcoming intemperance in this country.

Very sincerely yours

Mrs. Lillian Francis Fitch
Pocono Manor P. O.
Monroe Co. Pa.

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