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BOSTON, MASS.,

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Dear Miss Tarbell

In reply to yours of Nov 25 with reference to the letters of my great grandmother Mrs. Mary Otis Warren I beg leave to say that the original letters of hers in my possession are almost wholly to her husband and children and in none of these is there any indication that she held what are called advanced ideas as to the rights of women. When I have besides a large number of copies made by her of her letters to John & Abigail Adams & others - I cannot say that I have read all of them but I never have read one that indicated anything different from her family letters. She was a very affectionate wife entirely devoted to her husband & children, with the strongest belief in her husband's wisdom & patriotism & earnestly anxious for the moral welfare of her children. Her letters all show that she believed a woman could seek or fill no higher sphere than that of a good & faithful wife and devoted mother. She was as you know a cultivated, highly educated woman for her time & she took an active part in political movements but never in the sense of asserting any special rights or of doubting that she enjoyed to the highest degree all the rights to which her sex were by nature entitled. A doubt of the question of inferiority or superiority ever entered her mind.

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because she recognized that in their spheres the sexes were equal. Of course the question of suffrage for women was not then to be fore but she was inclined in most matters to conservatism & though fond of literature & writing was at the same time domestic in her tastes & never for a moment forgot the duties & privileges of a mother in her loves of gay society.

I have seen her quoted as a leader of the movement for women's rights in her time but there is nothing in her life & writings to my knowledge that justifies such a statement.

If you desire you or your agent may at any time see the letters I have at my home in Dedham but am quite sure you would find nothing - those that are not historical or taken up with discussion of the books of the day, are full of family affairs often of trivial but pleasing detail.

I have also looked over Mrs Adams's letters to Mrs Warren in my possession but find nothing in them upon the subject you refer to.

If I can give you further information shall be glad to do so.

I am

Sincerely yours
Winslow Warren

Mrs Ida M. Tarbell