

MCCLURE'S MAGAZINE.

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My dear Miss Tarbell:

I am certainly just as anxious to close up these matters as you and Mr. Phillips can possibly be, and I have no reason to doubt but that the early part of this week we shall be able to conclude our arrangements on the lines I have laid down. There is no reason why the general principles of settlement should not be agreed upon this week, and I shall do absolutely the best I can. I do not feel like doing anything, as I said to Mr. Phillips, without Mr. Mather's knowledge and approval. I did one or two things without his knowledge and he said if I did so again I would have to have another lawyer; so I am afraid to act without his advice and knowledge.

I have absolutely decided to buy you and Mr. Phillips out and to give you a six months' vacation on full salary, and to close up these matters just as rapidly as possible. I shall be under debts in this office equal to the net earnings of the last nine years when you leave, and it is therefore necessary for me to be able to give my undivided time and attention to this business. I shall agree to pay you for your stock on the most favorable terms that I can possibly hope to carry out. I have always endeavored to deal with you fairly and generously and you must understand that this separation results from no wish of mine, and that in purchasing your stock, which would not find a market elsewhere, I am simply exhibiting to you my appreciation of your long and splendid service. I feel no differently towards you and John from what I have always felt. Necessarily, in matters of this kind, many things are said and come to my ears from different sources that have been said, but I dismiss them. Even Mr. Phillips' phrase that I was headed for the insane asylum or the penitentiary, which has come to me from different sources, I forget. I only wish that things can be settled with the least possible friction and the least possible strain upon our friendship and health.

Very sincerely yours,



Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
40 W. 9th St., City.