July 10th, 1912.

My dear Mr. Brett:

When we first talked of putting my woman's articles in book form, we both agreed, I believe, that it might be well to expand the material by putting in illustrations of the point that I have been trying to make. It had been my plan, when I undertook the articles, to do this for the magazine, but the essay form which I gave the papers on the advice of Mr. Phillips would not carry the illustrative and descriptive material which I had gathered. I have been working for several days now on the rearrangement of the articles for the book, and I am convinced, and so is Mr. Phillips with whom I have talked over the matter, that it is wiser not to attempt to introduce them into the book. The essays will lose materially in emphasis if I do. I am expanding the argument in places. I am getting the advantage too of criticisms that I have had as I went along. I hope you will agree with me that it is better to leave the material as it is, rather than destroy its emphasis by putting in illustrations, which somehow do not seem to fit the style and form.

As I reckon it now, I shall have a manuscript of between thirty-two and thirty-five thousand words. This will be divided into nine chapters. I am more convinced that it is better to let the material go practically as it is, because we have practically decided to introduce into the back part of the magazine in another year, a department which, while it will not be called "The Business of Being a Woman", will deal entirely with that business. This will give me an opportunity to use all kinds of material in brief paragraphs and articles. I want to work out there gradually two or three lines of argument which seem to me of great importance in the general subject, and with which I have not dealt at all in this series. What it really will amount to is, I think, in perhaps three years, I shall have the material for a second book, which if I can carry out my present plans will be much more valuable than the present one will be. Because it will go deeper into certain fundamentals in that I can use abundant illustration, I think. That is, the book will not be dowe in essays, at least as I see it now.

I hope, my dear Mr. Brett, that my conclusion in the matter seems satisfactory to you. If so, I can place the material in your hands before I sail on the 23rd.

When I got into town Monday, I found waiting me the letter enclosing my check for royalties for last year. It is a handsome check and I want to express to you again my appreciation of the interest you have taken in putting my books into a paying form.

Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

To Mr. Brett:

We spoke, when I saw you at the farm the other day, of using the Tariff Book as a campaign document. In looking it over, I am convinced, in case the committee should care to circulate it, it would be wisest for them not to use the whole of it. That is, they should begin, I think, with Chapter six. I possibly could write a paragraph or two introducing it, which would make what follows a little more pointed to the reader.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. George C. Brett,
The Macmillan Company,
64 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.