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

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I wonder what kind of a letter I could write to you that would have any chance of awakening your interest in promising to write me an article next fall, for use in all our Methodist Church papers, of which I am the Contributing Editor,- with the task of finding material that will lift them out of their present insignificant stage and shape them into weekly magazines of some real value?

I might as well start in with the very worst part of my story. That is, that I can only pay you $100. so that the financial pull does not amount to anything. Then I might go on and point out the fact that I knew you very well when I was two years old, and by the time I was three, I was an old friend of yours. My father was then professor at Allegheny College, and spent many of his happiest hours boasting of the fact that he knew you, and I have continued the family tradition. But all that has nothing to do with the matter in hand.

I am such an amateur editor that I don't even know what subject to ask you to write about. I can only say anything that is on your mind. Any topic within the field of the social welfare of the country, would be acceptable.

All of our church papers have suffered terribly from insipidity, consequently I would like you to give the freest possible expression to any convictions that you may care to express.

At least half of our readers are women. If you write an article dealing with any phase of women's particular interest or opportunity or achievement, I would be very glad to get that.

As I said, I could pay you $100. It is very little I realize compared to what you could get in a score of other publications. But I wonder if you will not help in this genuine effort that we are making to make of our ten papers, with a circulation of over 250,000 a real influence in making opinion?

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