If Miss Tarbell buys the farm remind; otherwise not

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January 16, 1906

My dear Miss Winslow:

I have your note asking about my abandoned "farm". It is true I am trying to buy a little place in Connecticut, but I find so far that the chief thing about my intended purchase is the unsatisfied mortgages. If my lawyer succeeds in clearing them up without bankrupting me entirely, I presume I shall take the little farm, but it seems all to be a matter of the future, therefore you see, my dear Miss Winslow, it is quite out of the question for me to send the picture of the house even if I had one.

And there is another thing; my whole notion of an abandoned farm was that it was a place to retreat to, a place whose whereabouts is to be unknown to your dearest friend, a spot on earth where you could get away from your family and all the trying people you love. Am I so far mistaken when one acquires an abandoned farm that it is the first thing he should do to put its picture in the paper and tell the whole world. If this is true, then the whole thing is an abandoned idea for me, that is, I think it is. The truth is I never yet have failed to do anything that everybody else did. If it is part of the game to have my secret retreat written up I suppose I shall succumb.

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No, I have not the honor of being the Ida that you knew with Mrs. Croley.

I hope you will come out well with your article. You've got a whole chapter in Miss Gilder of course and her pretty place.

Very truly yours,

Miss Helen M. Winslow,

Winslow Farms,

Shirley, Mass.

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