Typed by C. Tupper

Ada McCormick
Tucson, Arizona

(Letter from Ida Tarbell
to herfamily.)

139T My Dear Family:-

I begin with business for fear of forgetting it. When you send for the back nos. of Transcript, get also the issue of Dec. 16. . I want you to get these in order to help me. It wo ld be foolish to subscribe for the paper for my letters are only occasional. I'll send you the dates when there is something.
Later -February 17. Send for Jan. 16 too, I think that is the date. It is a letter headed A Paris Press Woman. Anicle Barnie.(?)

This is starting into a letter rather abruptly, but I forget what I want to say if I do not get down at the moment my impressions. I am in a state of great upset this evening - Have just received a letter from McClure telling me they will probably cable me in a day or two to go to Glasgow to write an artilce on Prof. Drummond. He lays down with awful solemnity the size of the task and consoles me by telling me I'm the only one her knows of who can do it - a beautiful "taffy" which I accept. Of course, my expenses are to be paid a and McClure counsels me to travel 3rd class and go to a $2.00 hotel which of course I shall do, if I "get to go" which I am afraid I shall not. 140T Evidently McClure is sufficiently satisfied with me to trust me with his delicate work amd I think I am "in" surely with him. Certainly I shall try to stay there. The work he gives me is not easy. A study like that Mt. Blanc Observatory and the article to follow it which probably you will see before this letter reaches you, simply "break my head" as a Frenchman would say. As for the propsoed on e on Prof D. I certainly dread it. It is too delicate from every point, but I shall take it all the same. McClure has just accepted a magazine article on the Psychology of Legerdemain and the New England Magazine

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has been idiot enough to take a story - I'm half sorry they did. I believe I could write short stories if I had a little more leisure, but as it is I'm afraid I only murder them. I do not know where the story will appear. Don't subscribe for the magazine on the strength of it. They don't pay much and o nly on publication.

141T I had a letter from my dear old friends, Mr and Mrs Nichols today. Mr. N. says that he supposes that all is serene at M. since I have an article in the Chaut of this month. He wrote Dr. F. for my address!!! and says he received in return a very nice note. Humph! I hope they take the little McClure at meadville, that's all Mr. Nichols says that the magazine carries everything before it (whibh is saying a good deal)----------I also had a letter lately from Chris Miller. You remember him I am sure. Chris sent his picture, he looks fearfully old and thin. He is at Sioux City - principal of High School on a salary of $1700 a year, a Sunday School teacher and general "pillar", I presume - poor thing! He has ceased looking for a wife and has begun working for a degree, which probably will be less trouble and of more practical use. He also longs for Europe. He wouldn't if he had to hustle as I do, but would stay home like a civilized person ought to!

Since I wrote lastt I have had an awful time with my teeth. I
142T knew they were preparing a Revolution but like the government I hoped to ward it off. But I didn't. I had to give in and had one tooth with an exposed nerve, the gum grown over it and an abcess nearly finished my earthly career, for six hours one night I suffered as I didn't know it was possible to suffer and live. Fact. I've not gotten over

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my surprize yet. I never before had an idea of pain. But it isn't only the pain. Its the expense. It is going to cost me at least $75.00 to get my mouth in running order. Its worse than "toots in a well." But it must be done or I shall be unable to work, that's all. I am going to a <u>woman</u> dentist who is charming and very skillful.

Feb. 20 - Tuesday morning. I am still uncertain about the Glasgow matter, but I am obeying instructions and getting ready. It sppils all my plans to go, but it will be a jolly trip all the same and I shall be disappointed if it falls through. I must not write you much this morning, for I'm very busy. I had to have my old black silk fixed for my trip - bought a beautiful piece of crepon, black with a dot in it and had the old skirt draped and the waist covered for $12.00. I think I shall have a beautiful gown. I had the sleeves made in big ballons and the lower part detachable so that I could make an evening dress of it, a dinner dress or a street dress. Its a bigger scheme than a combination folding bedstead.

143T

I am well now that my teeth are better and am escaping the grippe, I hope. Everybody has it here, however and I am naturally fearful a little. A cold wave has struck us, however, and I hope it will freeze out the epidemic.

At the Mariller's the whole family are down with the pest. I was there the other night and dined in Malay fashion - the gentleman of whom I wrote, M. Lapicque, who has made such a long voyage in the Malaisian islands, arranged matters. We had each of us a big pile of ice in the middle of the plate and on one side a pile of strawberry preserves mixed with pepper, On another a pickle cut in bits
" " " pile of grated cheese
" " " piece of salmon with mayonnaise

447 sauce, the spoon is taken in the right hand and the fork in the left -

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and you eat a spoonful of rice with peppered strawberries, then one with pickle, then one with cheese, then a bit of salmon, the ----(?) made you commence again with peppered strawberries, etc. etc. It is amusing, but not exactly what an American calls a "good square meal". I wish I had time to tell you about the masquerade we got up there at the Mardi Gras with M. Lapicque's things. I was a Malay lady and a great success they told me. I must stop. I wish I didn't have to. There are so many things to tell you and its like visiting to write you, that is it approaches it. If I go to Glasgow I'll write you from there or try to at least. In any case you will hear from me soon. Write often - very often and tell me all the news. Mind you dont know when I'm coming home. I don't know myself, though I hope to make it in May or June.

Love to everybody

Ida M. Tarbell

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