

April 14, 1928

Mrs. Henry W. Peabody
Beverly, Mass.

My dear Mrs. Peabody:

I was afraid my letter would pain you, but I cannot help it. Please do not think for a moment that any pressure has been brought to bear on me. I am one of the few women in the country that is in no way connected with organizations. I have never discussed the Prohibition question with a politician or any leader either for or against the matter. My judgment is formed absolutely on my personal experience and personal observation.

They have not been experiences that have been sought, they have been experiences that have come upon me in my daily life.

I think you are right about the colleges. There always was some drinking in some colleges, there is still drinking in some places, but that there is vast exaggeration is certainly true.

The most serious thing to my mind is the threat to real temperance, and the fact that we are trying to compel instead of educate, persuade, develop. However, I will send you what I have written when it comes out, and though you may think me mistaken, I hope that you will free me from the suspicion that I have succumbed to pressure or to corrupt patronage.

Be sure I shall be very glad to have your frank judgment on my article. It seems to me that one of the first things in this question, as in all others, is to face squarely the real exhibits. In no other way can we estimate what they amount to at the moment and what they may amount to if they are not checked.

Sincerely yours