

New York, January 22, 1918.

My dear Gertrude:

I received the telegram urging me to attend the speakers' conference today. Too many conferences. The worst thing about this war is the number of conferences that are being held. It has got to be run on work and not talk. That is probably sedition so don't repeat it; but you can depend on me not going to any conferences that I can avoid.

I am sorry about Mrs. Martin's not getting the article for the News Letter. I think possibly it would be just as well to leave the idea of an article until the Committee meets, and I will talk it over. I think this present News Letter is very interesting, probably the best you have had. It does show women at work at useful things, which is what we want. A good news letter is worth more than any article.

I shall be down Thursday, if I don't have pneumonia. I thought I was in for it Sunday when I went to Boston to speak, but I seem to be pulling out.

I am returning the letter from the lady begging information about myself. I have not a "Who's Who", but I suppose the facts in it are correct. If you can get anybody to go to the library and copy them out, perhaps it will satisfy her. I am one of four, not twelve children; a Gentile, not a Jew. My father was an oil producer. Though my tastes interest me, I don't have much time to indulge them; and as to my traits of character, that has to be left to my friends, unless she can figure them out from the books I write. She may have the enclosed, if she will return it.

I have had a talk this morning with Mrs. Wilkes/ I think we had better hold it up until I come down. I like the idea of Esther Harnay pretty well. She would not be making too much sacrifice. And the lady from The Country Gentleman would certainly be valuable.

I am glad your lectures went so well. Would you mind making an engagement with Mr. Clarkson for me on Friday afternoon, if possible, after lunch.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Shelby
Washington, D.C.

Dictated by Miss Tarbell.