Girard Avenue,
East Aurora, N. Y.,
February 24, 1913.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
c/o Ladies' H. Journal,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Your articles in the Ladies' Home Journal possess for me an interest that no other view of Woman's Emancipation has held. Your description of the social condition of the girl in Domestic Service is truth itself. These girls need help to realize that their's is a really splendid and worth-while work.

What I wish to ask of you is, how can I become a worker among them to aid them to a realization of all you have written for and about them? Will you advise me?

I have had one year in high school and have taken a business course. I now occupy a good position as stenographer with prospects of advancement. But, I do not feel that I can do my best work in a clerical position. Could not do that work until I married as I certainly intend to do(God Willing). I am ambitious for the progress of our girls and women, but "The Vote"does not indicate my idea of the attainment of that end.

I can cook and sew, wash and iron etc. It would be best for me to go into service, of course, to get a line on all the conditions. What other preparation would I need. Would the House-keepers' Course of one year and some months at Mechanic's Institute help? Would it be possible for me to work near you to become famaliar with all you have so far found to be feasilbe in the advancement of this work?

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The trouble is, - my wages are needed at home, so whatever I do I must also make some money at the same time.

I feel, Miss Tarbell, that this work would bring out the best of my powers and develop them to the advantage of other girls as well as myself. I want to help so much. Tho' I am but nineteen and love fun and nice clothes, somehow, I see other things in life that most of the girls with whom I work,(who look down on a "Kitchen Mechanic", by the way), do not.

Can you help me to help you in helping the girls to learn to become better workers and to "be proud of their job" and to get their share of the pleasures life holds for all young girls?

I see where conditions could be much improved in my home town. But I must learn how to work, before I commence.

Kindly forgive the length of this letter. I'll gladly reciprocate the kindness, if given an opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

Manechia M. Russell

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