Phila. 13th St.

Oct. 31, 1911

Dear Miss Tarbell

I write in haste to say that I sent you the Century to keep.

But oh, Miss Tarbell, Miss Tarbell, to think that I sent all the way to Boston (to my cousin the Richard Hale who wrote the article) for the little old yellow-covered pamphlet of 1830, Songs for Our Children, to show you that Mary's Lamb was my Grandmother's and no one's else, not a word of it; and then to have you "go and say" it

Digital Images ©2009 The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College/Pelletier Library

was in a Token or Opal or some collection with other people's compositions and might as well have been theirs!!'

It was heart-breaking. I wanted a simple statement from an authority such as you, with no uncertain sound, — without even an allusion to the controversy that springs up every few years or so in the Boston Transcript and is taken up by newspapers all over the country. My sister said I was too subtle, and should have told you of this newspaper war, knowing you would understand that my grandmother was incapable of claiming anything

Digital Image, 2009: The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

not her own. She never did claim it. She wrote it and other people claimed it. When we scolded, she said that everyone who knew her knew that it was hers alone. She seldom paid any attention to these people, but the book had not then assumed its present proportions.

With kindest regards

Always most sincerely yours

Mary Stockton Hunter

235 S. 13th St.

Digital image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944. Allegheny College Pelletier Library