

Shaw, Miss., Feb. 10, 1912

Editor American Magazine:
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I thank you for your kind letter. Knowing that your day must be a busy one, I deeply appreciate this unexpected courtesy. I should be glad to receive a letter from Miss Tarbell should she see fit to write me.

However, I must confess that my interest in her "Woman" paper is waning. An article cannot but pall on one, now, can it? when in one paragraph it naively states that women have equal advantages with men in fields open to them, and in another declares with equal naivete that both Nature and Society are sort of working over time, as it were, to put her at a disadvantage. Or one which blithely flourishes the fact that in the few years in which certain fields have been open to women we have produced no women of first caliber in any of them, and sneaks by, tail and ears down the equally obvious truth that neither have we, in several times the number of years, produced a man of the first caliber in the same fields.

I assure you that my theories and convictions have not been evolved in the quiet of my study and molded to conform to a preconceived notion of what the world should be like. Neither have I gained my knowledge of working conditions among women in the United States from a ten days tour across the continent in a parlor car. From my experience and observation, I am convinced that there is no trade or profession open to women in which she has even approximately equal advantages with men - Miss Tarbell's own chosen profession of writing excepted. And these disadvantages come from no handicap which Nature has imposed on her, other than that Society has, by its attitude toward her, made her sex such a handicap.

By the way, did it never strike you as just plain funny that there should still be such articles as Miss Tarbell's written when after all, away back in the beginning of things, it was the woman who first dared to face even the wrath of the Lord God and eat of the forbidden because the eating thereof would make one wise.

Doesn't it seem that the world should be getting old enough to accord woman the liberty, without the eternal pecking and nagging, to gratify this passion for wisdom and knowledge implanted in her heart so long ago by her Creator? And how can wisdom and true knowledge be gained but by a broadening of the relations of life

But, no doubt, the good Lord God simply committed a vulgar blunder. It isn't possible that it is Miss Tarbell who has made the mistake.

Very Sincerely yours

(Mrs) Dell Kelso Mohlenhoff.