

78 Waltham street, Boston.

May 31, 1900.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

It took me a shamefully long time to do the letter - nearly three hours and even now there are a few words that I am not absolutely certain about. These I have ringed in lead pencil and indicated in the margin. I think I could have saved time by paying no attention to the type-written copy. It was misleading, recklessly using synonyms and other words where the letter was a plain as print. But it went much easier after I got used to the old-fashioned script, the fs, etc. So much was omitted I feared the insertions were too numerous to be easily deciphered, was why I copied the letter.

Doubtless the copy would have looked better without the marginal notes but I thought you would rather have the benefit of the doubt where it might make a difference in the sense. I have given

you the letter's exact punctuation and capitalization. The writer stuttered once or twice so I even let him stutter. I supposed you wished an exact reproduction.

Another thing. The gentleman ~~who~~ attended to me the first evening and who was the only one there, seemed surprised when I told him your message about the letter's being so badly done. He asked who did the letter. When I answered that I did not know he was so relieved that he gave me the impression that he might have been at fault. It seems the library was to close ten minutes afterwards so I returned the next morning. Another gentleman had charge and possibly your message ~~should have~~ did not reach the right person. I like to do the letters.

As I took so long a time at the work, please pay me just what you think it worth. Probably I could read faster next time now that I have got used to the old style script.

Bee and Mr. Watson called on me last week. She looks very well indeed. My sister Leila is getting better.

Affectionately, Elizabeth H. Frey.